DAY, FEBRUARY 23-24

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Organisation's (PLO) Police in medical all Department, left Friday for Baghdad to revive con-Chirac kind acting chief of the PLO misin the land

doumi will discuss with Iraqi officials the "latest developof Mickey nent on the Palestinian PARIS (AFF) - ssue. The visit is part of PARIS (Array and I me visit is part of mound of the Recomminded contacts between mound (RPR) the Palestinian and Iraqi Tangle of the same rates and and Iraqi and set up in the aderships and of unifying artist as the Arab ranks," said Mr. neo-Gallis Chaob. He said Mr. Kadneo-Course Flourni will meet with Iraq's Le Figur leputy prime minister, Tareq Wednesday uring his three-day stay. It dally said souring his three-day stay. It is promife said as Mr. Kaddoumi's first six to Iraq since Sept. 15, were hadrest it to Iraq since Sept. 15, were his first id Israel signed an accord of the Balladus ship Palestinian autonomy in the Balladus are e Gaza Strip and Jerieho in the Said if e Gaza Strip and Jerieho in the said is also in the said in the said is also in the said is also in the said in the said

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member of the state (AFP) — Senator Derance of the tas (AFP) — Senator Phil member of the samm launched his constructed to the samm launched his constituted of the samm launched his constituted of the sammer sammer sammer launched his construction of the sammer sammer launched his construction of the sammer launched his co valve bid for the 199t orthught add residential elections Friday, orthught add regions to balance the U.S. orthught one one side in a single term as dentily first sident or not run again. denning the Gramm — the first Rein office an Barro elections — told a crown in office and being to elections — told a crowd han the in the upporters in the university of the property of the university of the univer wn where he was once an nomics professor that his Mickey and opleting their revolution than the standard opleting their revolution them them standard one victory away out it had be feel our money back, our hussness to have form back, our country and had been always from back, our country and had been always from back, our country and had been back, our country and had been back, our country and had been back and that one victory is ating Bill Clinton in reversing the course of

A .

Strong tremors kill 2 in Cyprus

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The strongest earth tremors since 1953 joited this East Mediterranean island overnight, kilting an elderly couple and injuring five villagers. Some 1,000 people spent the night outdoors after the quake, police said. President Glafkos Clerides called off a top-level meeting to fly to the scene by helicopter and supervise a clean-up operation in the mountainous Paphos area. Six people were also injured, mostly out of panic, after the quake late Thursday which measured 5.7 on the Richter scale and hit the west of the island. The two Cypriots who died, Charilaos Hadjigeorgiou, 75, and his wife Stella, 65, were buried alive in Miliou, neighbouring the worst-damaged village of Pano-Arodhes. Hundreds of frightened villagers spent the night outdoors, some preferring to sleep in their cars, and police were mobilised to the scene. "People were alarmed by it," said Briton Dennis Smith, staying at the Annable hotel in Paphos with his wife Sandra on a week's holiday. The last major temblor to hit the island was in 1953 when 64 people were killed and 200 injured in



Hizbollah proposes peace with Israel

TYRE (AFP) — Hizbotlah group on Friday for the first time proposed making peace with Israel if the Jewish state withdraws from all Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian lands. The movement had so far refused to consider peace with Israel, rejected the Arab-Israeli peace talks, and called for the "elimination" of the Zionist "entity." "If they want a solution, let Israel withdraw from all Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian territory," Sheikh Naim Kasseri, Hizbollah's assistant secretary general, told 7,000 people in the southern coastal fown of Tyre. "If the territories are recovered, the affair will be settled and there will be peace," he said in a speech marking Jermalem Day. "If not we will not accept a truce and we will continue the resistance." Two Israeli warplanes flew several flights over the site of the Hizbollah gathering but provoke no reaction from the participants, some of whom were armed. Israeli warplanes also flew over Baalbek in the Synancontrolled Bekaa Valley where 3,000 people marked the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Volume 19 Number 5853

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1995, RAMADAN 25, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Stomach, the paper Delegation returns lishing photos to be from Bahrain

worms had come for any armed to Amman on Friday China unveil after paying a four-day visit to Bahrain. During the visit, gold platinum the delegation signed a draft the delegation signed a draft Deng watch executive programme to launch cooperation in launch cooperation in information-related fields. factory has produce vides for the two countries to bear the face of per exchange radio and television leader large of per messages, bold training prog-cold, diamond and the radio and television messages, bold training prog-cold, diamond and the radio for information services, which costing to coordinate in the use of satelwatch cosing m to coordinate in the use of satel-tuan (\$1,340). Its lites for radio and television News Service sid I broadcasts, exchange of radio day that proceeds to and television news and other would so to the and television news and exchange would go to the the programmes and exchange are Fund for the the publications and information ped. It said a booklets. The delegation met Guangzhon in the control of Bahrain, Guangrhou in the with the emir of Bahrain, where the impress. Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al stilled at a the Khalifah, and senior Bahraini attended by lost officials. The delegation inhad produced the cluded as members Petra Patiches with the Director General Abdullah

is selling for 11.30; Utourn and Radio Jordan the women's for this Director Hashem Khreisat. 151,230). The sad Libya rejects commemorarily. Libya rejects the open-door at call for summit

Deng. carries a per TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya on Taying of the Me Friday said the Palestine Lieader on its fier, beration Organisation's amonds, it said is; mix to rescue the peace pro-Tall of the On it cess was an attempt to cover and for the large up for the failure of the large Pufang emission of Delignius. It was not the Arab League which encouraged

first tranebe of the cancella-tion — in fiscal 1994. The rest was supposed to have been cancelled in two tranches, in fiscal 1995 and 1996, but Washington has moved to do to take defeatist decisions and to sell out the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people," a Ministry of Arab Lebanon seeks world help in Uoity spokesman said. Therefore, Arafat has no

right to call for an Arab SAKA (APP) - summit, which be would use The resident home to cover up his failure," be added, quoted by the official or a medical energy JANA. The PLO's House more top body, the Executive ::::ment related Committee, on Wednesday Lambia National Called on Arab leaders to Corporation Emeet as its talks with Israel Zamoian kada are on extending self-rule bave

wrong with Mr. (Se Kaddoumi heads

The proof AMMAN (Agencies) — The proof AMMAN (Agencies) — The proof AMMAN (Agencies) — The proof Amman Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the craft Texting the Palestine Liberation (Intersity Texting Organisation's (PIO) Button sion in Jordan, said Mr. Kad-

Israeli shelling. Labour Minister Abdullah

with an unprecedented visit to a buffer zone in South Lebanon on Thursday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and 13 members of his 17-strong cabinet. 'The Lebanese govern-

ment will shoulder the reofficial news agency ANI.

declined to comment.

the Lebanese appeal at a

that the House subcommittee approved is not at all the bottom line," she stressed, adding that even the approval for the \$50 million

to the Senate appropriations sub-committee, the full sen-

ate and then a possible con-

ference between the Senate

and the House of Repre-

sentatives to bridge gaps, she

As such. "the \$50 million

clears the way for "a larger write-off. The figure depends on the technical side of the process. "The final outcome of the

mic or military aid, was consi-(proposed measure) could dered by the House of Reprevery well be very different sentatives Appropriations from what it looks like to-Sub-Committee on Foreign said Ms. Atalla, indicating that the administration would ensure that the duced the outlay for the write-off of the Jordanian full allocation is made in the bill in its final form. debt to \$50 million from the

She noted that the very fact that the administration proposed the write-off the entire remainder of the promised cancellation of Jordan's debts in one tranche rather than the previously promised two was a reflection of Washington's commitment and seriousness to live up to its pledge.

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat back in Gaza after securing Saudi pledge of help

NUCLEAR CARGO: A container is loaded on the other two empty. The empty ones will the British cargo ship Pacific Pintall Toursday in the Port of Cherbong, France. The ship later left carrying three such containers—one with 15 tonnes of reprocessed nuclear waste,

GAZA (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza from Saudi Arabia on Friday after winning what he said was a promise from King Fahd to ask the United States, Russia and the European Union (EU) to belp break a deadand the European Union to lock in Israel-Palestine Liberadon Organisation (PLO) talks.

Mr. Arafat visited Saudi Arabia briefly to seek sup-port for the PLO's international campaign to push Israel towards implementing the stalled next stage of selfrule — Palestinian elections and an Israeli troop redeploy-

ment in the West Bank.
"It was fruitful, successful," the PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian

plematic mission in Gaza, Earlier at Cairo airport on his way home, Mr. Arafat said: "The king promised to hold contacts with the sponsors of the peace process (the United States and Russia)

move the situation forward." The Palestinian elections and Israeli redeployment are running eight months behind schedule because of disagreements over the arrangements and Israel's worries about security after a series of suicide bombings by mili-

Mr. Arafat went to Saudi Arabia after a meeong of the PLO's Executive Committee in Cairo that ended Wednesday. The PLO leaders deto seek internationa

Israel over expanding Palestinian autonomy beyond the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Mr. Arafat met King Fahd

on Thursday, said Nabil Abu Rudeinah, an Arafat spokes-Sources close to Mr. Ara-

fat said the Saudi monarch promised to give the Palestinians \$30 million to help Palesonian institutions in east Jerusalem.

Israeli police meanwhile eased a month-long closure of the West Bank on Friday as more than 160,000 Palestinians prayed at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque under heavy Israeli security. Some 1,700 police patrol-

led Jerusalem's walled Old City as the worshippers third holiest shrine, on the (Continued on page 7)

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Burbanud-

din Rabbani is ready to share

power with the emerging

Jordan fully backs Saudi mediation in Gulf dispute

AMMAN (J.T.) - Jordan has voiced its full support for Saudi Arabia's mediation to resolve a territorial dispute between Bahrain and Oatar and expressed hope that the mediation would be successful and bolster collective Arab action.

A government statement issued on Thursday also noted that the Jordanian support for the Saudi mediation in the dispute stemmed from Jordan's consistent stand that disputes among Arab countties should be settled through inter-Arab efforts.

While the statemen: did not spell it out, it was an implicit reference to Jordan's stand during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 fraqi invasion of Kuwait when the Kingdom, as in previous inter-Arab disputes, called for an inter-Arab solution to the crisis and opposed foreign intervention.

Thursday's government statement said:

'The Jordanian government has been following with deep interest the recent developments in the diplomatic efforts spearheaded by Saudi Arabia to end the territorial dispute between (Bahrain and Oatar).

"Settling the dispute within the Arab community will safeguard the national interests of the two sides and

(Continued on page 7)

Afghan balance shifts

ending Israeli siege on fishing Nadonal Authority (PNA) told reporters at the inautold reporters at the inau- help in breaking the staleguration of a Norwegian di- male in negotiations with had begun a flurry of di-30-minute meeting with Foreplomatie contact to stop the ign Ministry Under Secretary Zafer Hassan in Beirut. situation worsening in the French diplomat doing "All sides are required to soutb. A pro-Syrtan minister exercise restraint and seek

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon appealed to the United States and other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council Friday to pressure Israel into lifting a naval blockade on South Lebanon ports.

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Clinton

auninistration, in line with

its commitment to Jordan,

has taken the step of propos-

ing to Congress a measure

that will allow it to write off \$488 million of the King-

dom's debts to the U.S. in

fiscal 1995, a senior official

Rania Atalla, bead of the

fordan Informacion Bureau

(JIB) in Washington, said the

measure was contained in a

Fiscal Year 1995 Sup-

plemental" that the adminis-

tradon presented to Congress

Ms. Atalla said the propos-

al was in the form of seeking

outlays of \$275 million, which

will teebnically allow the

administration to write off up

to \$488 million of Jordan's

Washington has promised a write-off of \$702 million to

Jordan's debts to the U.S.

spread over three years and

wrote off \$220 million - the

said Friday.

last week.

Hundreds of Lebanese trampled the U.S. flag and chanted "death to America, the Great Satan" in a parade staged by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God, at which the movement's leaders also threatened to bombard Israeli towns.

Labour Minister Abdullah Al Amin said on Thursday Lebanon could shell Israeb towns and villages if Israel continued to bombard South Lebanon town and villages. Another minister who de-

clined to be named said on Thursday Beirut feared a major Israeli operation in Sonth Lebanon after recent bom-bardments of civilian areas and the widening of the fishing blockade against the region's seaports.

The minister said Beirut

warned that Lebanon could bomb Israel in retaliation for

U.S. moves to write off

House sub-committee cuts \$275m outlay to

\$50m, but unlikely to affect final outcome

plained.

piemental, Ms. Atalla ex-

enore remainder in one tran-

che in fiscal 1995 was prom-

ised to Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti two

weeks ago when he visited

Washington and held talks

with Secretary of State War-

ren Christopher and other

interview with the Jordan

Times, said the FY 1995 Sup-

plemental, which is not link-

ed to direct American econo-

Operations on Thursday.

The sub-committee re-

requested \$275 million, but in

real terms of the American legislative process this move

means very little, Ms. Atalla

"It is a seven-stage process that has started at the sub-committee level," she said.

The bill has to go through the

full appropriation committee,

then the full House of Repre-

Ms. Atalla, in a telephone

The move to cancel the

\$488m of Jordan's debts

so in one tranche by propos-ing in the FY 1995 sup-to the Senate appropriations

Al Amin's threat coincided

sponsibility of shelling Israeli towns and villages if the Jewish state cononues its aggression against Lebanese areas." Mr. Amin said, quoted by the

It was not immediately clear if Mr. Amin's threat reflected the policies of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. A source close to the premier U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ronald Schleicher received

ways to ease tensions in South Lebanon," Mr. Schleicher said after the meeting.

The Russian, Britisb. French and Chinese ambassadors later held separate meetings with Mr. Hassan.

The Russian envoy, Guennadi Ilitchev, said Lebanon was not seeking a Security Council meeting, but wants permanent members to persuade Israel to end the blockade, which has deprived 1,300 fishermen of their livelthood.

Israeli gunboats cruised the Mediterranean off Lebanon's southern coast Friday, firing warning shots to keep fishermen in the port cities of Sidon and Tyre and the oil harbour of Zahrani, police reported.

But the blockade on Sidon (Continued on page 7)

well after attack in south

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A French diplomat who was shot and wounded by two men Friday noon in the southern area of the Kingdom was recovering in hospital and his condition appeared to be sansfactory. according to Jordanian offi-

Director of the police department Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan said the assailants were arrested immediately, but he declined to reveal further information on the incident, saying investigations were still under

The diplomat, identified in a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior as Second Secretary Gilles Hein, "is doing well, recovering from the injury in hospital," Gen. Adwan rold the Jordan Times. Initial information on the

incident were sketchy. Sources told the Jordan Times that it took place in the Ai Majeb valley in the south at noon. While Mr. Hein suffered one gunshot in his 25domen, Mrs. Hein, who was with her husband, was no! injured. The two children of the Heins live with their parents in Amman but were no: with them at the time of the attack. It was not immediately

clear whether the attack against the diplomat was premeditated but, according to informed sources, the essailants had planned an abduction, and may have found a target in Mr. Hein who bappened to be there at the time. Arms were found with the assailants who are believed to be religious extremists, informed sources

'Mr. Hein resisted the abduction attempt and was shot in the abdomen in the process," one of the sources, said. Another source said the first attempt of abduction was made against Mrs. Hein but was foiled with the interven-(Continued on page 7)

Taliban movement but only recognises a symbolic authority in his former opponents, a presidencial press spokesman said Friday. The Talibans are the side which we should have to deal

with, as they are the side with power," Abdul Aziz Morad told journalists here. He said that the recent defeats in Kabul of the anti-

Rabbani alliance headed by faction leaders Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum and Abdul Ali Mazari meant that the alliance was no longer a force of equal power. "In view of recent transformations, Hekmatyar,

Dostum and Mazari are now out of the military and political scene," declared Mr. Morad.

He said that the respective factions Hezb-e-Islami. Junbish-e-Milli and Hezb-e-

in favour of Talibans three leaders, have become marginalised in the Afghan power-play and would have limited say on the United Nations-proposed mechanism for the transfer of power

by Mr. Rabbani. "If they are included in the meehanism, they will just have a symbolic presence. Mr. Morad noted,

Mr. Morad conceded that the Talibans, who have captured nine provincial capitals in the past six months, should not only be included in the U.N. proposed mechanism but would also afive a share in the security forces.

"If they demand to come (to Kabul) we are ready to have a joint force, not only for the security of Kabul, but for the whole country as well," Mr. Morad said.

However, Morad did not mean that these new security forces would exclude commanders of other factions. He implied they would have a

(Continued on page 7)

Wahdat headed by these recall of five U.S. nationals Russians hit Chechens outside Grozny

ARGUN, Russia (Agencies) - Russian artillery battered Chechen positions on the outskirts of Grozny on Friday using mortars, howitzers and multiple-barrelled socket launchers to block rebel routes into the capital, witnesses said.

"The first part of last night was very heavy bere but it get quieter in the early morning hours," said Aslambek ismalov, a Chechen commander in Argun, east of Grozny.

"The Russians are shelling places closer to Grozzy now. trying to keep our fighters getting in... our turn will come later," be told repor-Moscow's troops cut the

last major highway into Grozny on Tuesday, completing their encirclement of the city more than two months after being seot in to

spread to towns and villages in outlying areas, from which the Checken resistance is still infiltrating snipers and commando squads into Grozny. Argun's deserted streets

were relatively quiet on Friday, but big Russian guns were clearly audible to the west along the Restov-Baku highway as they poured fire onto Cheehen posicions. Interfax news agency

quoted Checben sources as saying at least 10 armoured vehicles were moving along the main road out of Grozny to the south-west towards the fown of Urus-Martan, a centre of opposition to rebel Checben leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Not every Chechen town has gone to war against the shelled several times by the Russians this week

In an attempt not to provoke Moscow's troops, armed residents were turning away fighters from other parts of Chechenya as they tried to pass through the town from frontline positions overnight.

Russian military prosecutors in Grozny bave charged servicemen with theft, robbery and looting following seven incidents, the deputy chief military prosecutor, Stanislav Gaveto, said.

Quoted by Interfax, he said other criminal charges under investigation included 'negligent handling of weapons leading to a serviceman's death or injury" and negligence leading to traffic accidents.

The charges were the first weekend. They finally took control of most of the cin

Residents of Grozny claim that Russian soldiers are running amok there, looting, bearing people up and sometimes murdering them. Some say the soldiers have occupied their homes and refuse to leave.

The rebels say they will eventually take their fight to the mountains in the south of the region. Russian air force chief Pyotr Deinekin told Interfax news agency his planes were capable of pin-point bombing of mountain stron-

gholds if necessary. The campaign to halt Chechenya's three-year-old independence drive has proved deeply unpopular among most Russians and raised voices of protest

But a top U.S. official on Thursday strongly defended a generous aid package for the

U.S.-French war of words erupts over spying scandal

PARIS (Agencies) — Angrily breaking its silence, the U.S. embassy on Friday accused France's interior minister of lying about events that preceded this week's disclosures of alleged American espionage in France.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who oversees French counterespionage, said be had not intended the U.S. spy affair to become public and suggested there were leaks from "the American

"On our part, there was no desire for publicity," be was quoted as saying during a trip to Africa. "All this can be blamed on the United States' delay in resolving the affair." The U.S. embassy, which had refused all comment

since the affair was disclosed

Wednesday, lashed back with

highly unusual attack on Mr. Pasqua. "We categorically reject the allegation that we are responsible for the detailed and totally regrettable press leaks," the statement said. "This charge is neither true

nor credible."

"We also regret his inaccu-rate and incomplete account of his conversations with Mrs. (Pamela) Harriman, the U.S. ambassador.

Mr. Pasqua, briefing re-porters Friday in the Ivory Coast, described two meetthes with Mrs. Harriman, the first to inform her of the accusations and ask that her government "take the necessary measures without de-

Two weeks later, be said, Mrs. Harriman informed him that there had been no U.S. government order for any spying to be conducted and indicated there was no move afoot to withdraw the five suspected spies from France.

The U.S. embassy declined to specify what was inaccurate about Mr. Pasqua's account, saying, "such exchanges should bave been protected by the rule of diplomatic confidentiality." The two countries have for

two days been trying to play

down the spy case, revealed in a leak to Wednesday's Le

Monde daily, which said that

France was demanding the

allegedly spying for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on French economic Pasqua, speaking to Le Monde Friday, said the spy

affair was "very very serious" and sought to blame the United States for the leak, which bas until now been widely blamed on his own ministry. "There were lots of leaks on the American side," be said, adding that the French government bad wanted to

keep the affair quiet. "There

is no desire for publicity on

our part." he told Le Monde's Dakar correspon-A short time later, talking to the press in Abidjan where be was beginning a three-day tour of African states, he

went further in his attack on the United States. He said it was "ahnormal for the foreign services of a friendly power to conduct spying operations aimed notably at recruiong high rank-

ing civil servants to possibly (Continued on page 7)

crush the breakaway republic's bid for independence. Since then fighting has

Russians, Gotty, 13 kilometres south of the capital, was trying to remain neutral despite having been

reported by the authorities since Russian forces began artacking the Chechen Capit-al over the New Year's

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hanoi orders probe into Lebanon 'slave' scandal

HANOI (AFP) - Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van

Kiet has ordered an investigation after women sent to work

in hotels in Lehanon ended up living in virtual slave-labour conditions as maids in private houses, a report said Friday

Women sent to Lebanon to work as waitresses, hotels staff

or in factories had instead been forced to become house

hold servants and were treated brutally by their employers

the Tuoi Tre newspaper said. A government agency in

charge of sending labourers overseas had called on

companies to stop sending workers to Lebanon following

charges of ahuse made by women who recently returned here, the newspaper said. Press reports said that the

women had reportedly been forced to work long hours and were subjected to bearings and confinement. Living condi-

tions in the households were poor and correspondence with

home restricted. Several had written from Lebanon asking for the government to help them escape from "this help the newspaper said. A manager for a company that had

been sending workers there said any who were unhappy with their jobs would be helped to return. But she said

Members of underground Turkish group arrested

there had been no complaints.

Home

FRIDAY PRAYERS H

Hussein and His Royal

Prince Hassan attend i

Hamzeh Ben Abdul Min

Amman. Sheikh Must

delivered the sermon.

ing efforts to turn Jorda

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Oueen a

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AMMAN (J.T.) — Und the patronage of Her Majes

Queen Noor, the Namo:

Music Conservatory of :

Noor Al Hussein Foundati

held an iftar followed by

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Sheikh of chanting Sal

Mudallal and the Ensem

of Heritage at the Int

Continental Hotel, accordi

to a Royal Court stateme:

Mr. Mudallal and his e

semble sang Muwashaha

Magamat, Mawawee

Adwar, Halabi Kodou

Nabawi praises and oth

songs from the rich music

bentage of the Arab World

the Thursday night event, 1

Queen Noor, wh

Computer

market po

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Tin

AMMAN - Jordan's co

puter market is cramped

say the least, according

Zeid Nasser of Byte mag

tine, a comouter technolo

"We sell around 1,0

copies per issue here, and

don't think the market v

allow for more." said t

Byte sales representativ

Meanwhile Byte, a fir

month-old newcomer to t

Middle East, has airea

managed to sell "six to sev

times that amount" in Egy

and Saudi Arabia. "That to

you how small the compu

market in Jordan really is

ket does not seem to la

ambition, if a visit to

two-day American Compu

Show was any indicated

Twenty-one Jordanian co

panies and dealerships.

least 15 of them less than

decade old, and 11 of th

non-existent before 19

crowded the showroom at

Philadelphia Hotel on Thu

firms are going to make i

marketing director for N

age Information Technok

Group, maintaining that

Certainly not all the

day and Friday.

Small or not, the local m

monthly.

statement said.

By a Jordan Times Staff Iraqis on how to make use of Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Iragi industrialists have agreed to set up a joint committee to work out specifics in industrial cooperation between the two sides and follow-up a memorandum of understanding they signed in Baghdad last week, an advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry said Friday.

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Ali Dajani, the advisor emphasised that the envisaged Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation would in no way violate the international sanctions imposed on Iraq in Augusi 1990 following that country's invasion of Kuwait.

"We are fully committed to and are abiding by the sanctions against Iraq, and have no intention whatsover to contravene the terms of the sanctions," Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times. "The cooperation that we expect between Jordn and Iraq will he strictly within the framework of the exemptions granted from the sanctions."

'Any interpretations to the contrary will be simply meaningless and without substance," he added.

Mr. Dajani was commenting on the memorandum signed by an Amman Chamber of Industry with the Iraqi Federation of Industries and Federation of Chambers Industries and Commerce in Bagbdad last week. The memorandum of

understanding calls for cooperation in the fields of industry, food, textile and construction. "The memorandum also

stipulates that Jordanian industries would advise Iraqi industries on rebuilding and reoperating some of the factories which are no longer operative," said Mr. Dajani. The involvement of Jordnian industries in this context would be strictly in an advis-

Some of the industries are also military facilities which are being converted for civilian use after they were rendered obsolete in their present form following Iraq's complicance with the U.N. terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf war over Kuwait in early 1991.

A businessman cited an example: "There is a large number of clothing establishments affiliated with the Iraqi military. These used to produce uniforms for the Iraqi armed forces. With the reduction of the numerical strength of the Iraqi army, some of these facilities are rendered obsoltete, and Jordanians could advise the

the extra capacity that is available.

The joint committee that was agreed upon will he formed after an Amman Chamber of Commerce delegation visits Iraq next month. Mr. Dajani said.

"There will be close coordination between the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Amman Chamber of Commerce on the one hand and the Iraqis on the other,"

Mr. Dajani said he was not aware of any Amman Cham-ber of Industry plans to hold an exhibition of Jordanian industiral products in Baghdad in April as reported by the Baghdad Observer.

"The Amman Chamber of Industry is planning a national exhibition in Amman in May to mark the occasion of Jordan's Independence day, he said. "Iraqis will be invited to the exhibition. Beyond that, I am not aware of any plans to hold a Jordanian exhibition in Baghdad as reported."

Khaldoun Ahu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, led the delegation to the visit to Iraq. The delegation returned home late Wednesday.

The memorandum signed in Baghdad is largely seen as a landmark accord that ensures a key Jordanian role in Iraq after the sanctions are eased/lifted to allow some of the envisaged cooperation.

It was also a key achievement in particular for the Jordanian industrial sector, which has been watching with apprehension the steady flow of international trade delegations to Baghdad through Amman and reports of "hillions of dollars" worth of "post-sanctions" contracts being discussed in Baghdad. In talks that the delegation held in Baghdad, it was also

agreed that Iraq would increase its post-sanctions imports from Jordan. While little elaboration was available on this count, it was taken to mean that Iraq would direct its post-sanctions orders to Jordan for products that it is now getting from Turkey and

No definite statistics are available on the flow of such Turkish and Iranian products as well as goods from elsewhere but channelled through the northern and eastern neighbours of Iraq. Both Ankara and Tehran deny charges that Turks and Iranians are violating the sanctions and would release little statistics except to say that their exports to Iraq are strictly food and medicine.

Follow-up panel to | Under Arafat's rule, Gaza economy took turn for worse

1993 autonomy accord.

Shortly after he arrived in

July, Mr. arafat said he

would personally belp build one-pier "Gaza port," using

his skills as an engineer. But

a metal framework set up

collapsed in the winter storms

and has turned red with rust.

Foreign governments pledged \$700 million for 1994

but disbursed only \$240 mil-

lion. Most of the money was

spent to cover 40,000 salar-

ies, including those of 9,000

bulk of the money because

the Palestinians refused to set

mp accounting procedures. Mr. Larsen also cited Palesti-

nian infighting over projects

also made mistakes, focusing

on long-term rather than

short-term projects that im-

of learning, maybe it was a

year of failure," said Mr.

government and the donors

set up a new system they

hope will finally get the

JIC to sell shares in most hotels

ladelphia, Marriot and Coral

Beach as those which are

expected to go on the bloc

The new ventures where

the corporation wants to in-

vest, he said, involve not only

the tourism sector but also

industry and other sectors.

Mr. Batayneh said the cor-

poration was expected to

finalise its acceptance of a

private sector offer to buy 54

per cent of the Jordan Inter-

Continental in "a few days." The offer, which came in

response to a JIC invitation

for hids, involves two million

of the 3:2 million JIC shares

in the Jordan Hotels and

Tourism Company. The Jordan Hotels and Tourism

Company, whose capital is

spread in 3.66 million shares

with a par value of JD I,

owns the Inter Continental

Hotel; the 382-room hotel

located in the heart of Am-

man is the only commercial

entity owned by the com-

holds the rest of the shares -

12.3 per cent — of the Jordan

Hotels and Tourism Com-

The Inter.Continental is

operated by the London-

hased Inter.Continental

chain under an agreement

The private sector already

He did not elaborate.

Last week, Mr. Arafat's

'The year 1994 was a year

mediately create jobs.

Mr. Larsen said the donors

The donors withheld the

accounting procedures.

police officers.

and money.

GAZA CITY (AP) - In the euphoric days after the 1993 peace agreement with Israel, Palestinian factory owner Maher Reqayyik could barely keep up with demand for his Yasser Arafat drinking glas-

But in the past few months, sales have stopped, along with the hopes that Mr. Arafat would bring prosperity to improverished Gaza.

"They don't want him anymore," Mr. Reqayyik said of Mr. Arafat. "He hasn't brought them any money."
Since the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) took control of Gaza in May, unemployment soared to 60 per cent, rents doubled and the value of all goods and services sold in the Strip fell by 15 per cent from \$1 billion

The slump is not only due to Palestinian inefficiency. Israeli restrictions have prevented Palestinian workers and products from reaching Israel and millions of dollars in aid pledged by foreign governments never came. U.N. officials warned of violence among Gaza's

800,000 people if the downward spin continues. "Hope is withering away... and there may be an explo-sion on the ground," said

Terje Larsen, the U.N. coordinator for Gaza "Living conditions are money flowing. In all, world

By a Jordan Times Staff

Reporter

AMMAN - The govern-

ment plans to sell its shares in

most of the hotels in the

country this year and channel

the proceeds to fresh ven-

tures, a senior official has

The first step in this direc-

tion was taken when the Jor-

dan Investment Corporation

(JIC), the agency that guides

state investments in commer-

cial ventures, offered its 87.7

per cent stake in Amman's

landmark Inter. Continental

Hotel to the private sector

year by the corporation in-

clude its 33 per cent equity in

the Philadelphia Hotel, 32

per cent in the Amman Mar-

riott Hotel and 43 per cent in

Agaba's Coral Beach Hotel,

"We are determined to eli-

minate our present involve-

ment in commercial ventures

in the tourism sector and use

the capital proceeds (from

the sale of present holdings)

into fresh ventures," Mr.

Batayneh told the Jordan

"We intend to sell our

shares in some of the major

hotels in Amman this year." he said, listing the Phi-

said Mohammad Batayneh,

director-general of the JIC.

Other offers planned this

late last year.

much worse today than in 1993," said Mr. Larsen, a governments pledged \$2.4 billion over five years.

Norwegian who helped set np Twelve groups were set up the secret talks that led to the for different areas of the economy, and in each group, one Even projects proudly indonor country is in charge itiated by Mr. Arafat as symand has a specific Palestinian hols of Gaza's rebirth have partner.

But Palestinian economist Khaled Abdul Shafi said the Arafat government cannot rely on foreign aid alone and must do more to attract private investors. Business people find it dif-

ficult to cope with Gaza's crumbling infrastructure. The telephone utility is so small that those who applied for a line 10 years ago are still waiting. Most roads are bumpy and there are almost daily power outages. Mr. Abdul Shafi said

Israeli closures of the West Bank and Gaza Strip also contributed to Gaza's

Israel imposed the latest travel ban on Jan. 22, after 21 Israelis were killed in a suicide bombing by militants. For every day of closure, Gaza loses some \$3 million in wages of 23,000 labourers and exports to Israel, Mr. Abdul Shafi said.

Palestinians complain that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's new policy of eventually keeping Palestinians ont of Israel for good violates the Israel-PLO economic agreement hased on open

that expires in 2002.

Mr. Batayneh said the

offer for the Inter.Con-

tinental was made by a local

group led by Zara Investment

"several local and Arah in-

vestors" whom he did not

identify. He corrected re-

ports that the group was

offering around JD 10.50

each for the two million

"The offer we have re-

ceived — that is going to be

finalised and accepted by the

board of directors of the JIC

in the next few days — is JD 7.2 per share," he said. This would mean JD 14.4 million

for two million shares, he

poration had received some

offers for the rest of the JIC

shares — 1.2 million — but

had not made up its mind.

"The (Zara-led) offer was by

far the highest hid we re-

ceived, and we want to settle

the deal first" before con-

sidering other offers, he said.

However, the JIC would

like to complete the process

of sale of the Inter.Con-

Mr. Batayneh said the cor-

shares.

orporation and including

Christopher to visit Mideast in 'near future'

WASHINGTON (USIA) -Secretary of State Warren Christopher expects to go to the Middle East in the "relatively near future," according to his top assistant on the Middle East peace process. But, he said an announcement will be made when the "final" decision on the trip is made.

Dennis B. Ross, the special Middle East peace coordinator, discussed the secretary's travel plans on Thursday at an on-the-record briefing before the Foreign Correspondents Association at the National Press Club. He did not have any opening remarks.

At the State Department noon briefing, the acting spokesman said that "March is a likely time frame" for the Christopher trip.

The secretary of state vi-sited the Middle East last December and his projected trip to the region comes at a time when Syrian-Israeli talks and Israel-Palestinian negotiations appear to be at a standstill.

Complicating the atmosphere in the area is the unresolved issue of Egypt's refus-al to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel endorses the accord as well. The treaty is up for renewal next April.

Although he emphasised that he was not dismissing the problems, Mr. Ross explained, it was easy for some to lose sight of the achievements to date. What is "striking" about the current climate in the region is that there is a "continuing commitment to negotiations... and to solve the problems in the negotiations," he stres-

At one point he told a questioner that there is no magic wand to capture a solution, "The challenge for us is to make it easier for the sides, regardless of the tracks, to overcome differ-ences..." He added that the United States is going to do whatever it can.

As regards the issue of Israel's nuclear capability, Mr. Ross also noted that Egypt and Israel had "meaningful" discussions when Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met his counterpart in Egypt February 23. Ross pointed out that both agreed to pursue talks at a later stage.

Mr. Ross also affirmed that Sandi Arabia has been "supportive, committed and determined to do whatever (it) can" to move the Mideast peace process forward. He concluded that for the

tinental soon, he said, implying the corporation would also like to place the Phipeace process to work, there ladelphia, Marriot and Coral must be tangible progress Beach stakes in the market whereby the expectations of the parties are fulfilled.

ISTANBUL (AP) — Eight alleged members of an under-ground Islamic fundamentalist group have been arrested in connection with a series of bombing attacks, police said Thursday. Anthorities said the eight were members of the Great Eastern Islamic Raiders, which has been implicated in 32 hombings in Islamic Raiders, which has been implicated in 32 bombings in Istanbul over the past 12 months. Two people were killed in those attacks. Among those arrested was Kazim Albayrak, editor of a magazine that has called for a holy war to topple Turkey's secular system. The arrests in several neighbourhoods of this metropolis of 10 million during the past few days netted three automatic weapons, three handguns, one hand grenade and six pipe bombs, police said. Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise in Turkey, a predominantly Muslim but secular country. The fundamentalist Welfare party doubled its votes in local elections last March, capturing many mayorships, including Ankara, the capital, and Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city.

Turkish premier to visit Japan

ANKARA (AP) - Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will seek wider economic ties with Japan during an official visit starting Sunday. Ms. Ciller's government has faced difficul-ty in finding foreign credits. Japanese loans came to a halt last year after Turkey's credibility rate dropped in the international markets. Turkey expects Japanese businessmen to expand their investments in this country where the Toyota car manufacturer and Bridgestone tyre makers are already engaged in joint venture productions. Turkey has recently become popular among Japanese travellers. About 63,000 Japaneses visited Turkey last year, up from 42,000 the previous year.

Former Cypriot minister dies

NICOSIA (AP) — Former government minister George Toannides has died. He was 71. Toannides died Thursday night in Nicosia general hospital after a heart attack, the Cyprus News Agency said. He was a close associate of the island republic's founding father, Archbishop Makarios; who died in 1977. Throughout the 1970s, Ioannides held the posts of justice minister, interior minister and minister

Arafat inventing foiled bombings — Hamas

GAZA CITY (AFP) - He said his son had pre-Palestine Liberation Orga- pared a will, which contained misation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's security apparatus is making up reports of foiled suicide bombings just to satisfy Israeli demands for a crackdown, a Hamas leader charged Fri-

Mahmoud Zahhar said a

young supporter of Hamas.

the Islamic Resistance Move-

ment, was detained and

pressured to fabricate a story

about being ordered to go on a suicide mission. The intelligence forces 'applied psychological and physical pressure on me, and couldn't bear it ... so I

began inventing stories," Dr. Zahhar quoted I5-year-old Musa Ziadeh as saying.

"I told them two masked men asked me to go on a suicide mission. After more pressure to get their names, I mentioned two names," Ziadeh wrote in a report read out at Palestine Mosque before some 1,500 Hamas supporters.

Mohammad Al Sayyed, a Koranic teacher, and Khaled Eissa, a mosque preacher, were later arrested

But the youth's father, Hisham, insisted his son's confessions were true, and said he was to have blown himself up using eight kilog-rammes of TNT explosive in Israel on Feb. 14.

Sheikh Eissa's name, and which asked his parents not

to cry for him.
"The authorities did not force him to talk."
"I asked them to apply some pressure on him but notmuch, because he had to talk," he said.

His son provided details of the planned TNT explosion; which was to be one in a string of suicide bombings After Ziadeh's first release early this month, a Hamas activist in a white car drove up to the house and told him

the plan had been called offs. Further investigation showed that about six other, youths were to be next in line, and police have now placed them under house sta-pervision, Hisham said.

"They've jailed Musa again because after his res him again and forced him to renege on his statements," he said explaining the statements."

Dr. Zahhar read.

"I hope they keep him until be gets all those ideal out of his mind."

out of his mind."

Hisham, whose brother works for Palestinian intelligence, said young Ziadeh had joined Hamas about three years ago. He first became suspicions when his son disappeared for days at a time two months ago. two months ago.

Albright trip to urge retention of U.N. sanctions on Iraq France and Russia have

UNITED NATIONS — U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright will visit several member-countries of the U.N. Security Council for meetings with top officials aimed at ensuring that sanctions against Iraq remain in place until Baghdad is in full compliance with the U.N. ceasefire demands.

The trip, which was announced Thursday by the White House and by the U.S. mission to the United Nations, was scheduled to begin later that day.
White House Press Secret-

ary Mike McCurry, in a written statement, said President Bill Clinton has asked Albright to consult "at each stop regarding the best means of ensuring Iraq's full compliance with its obligations as established by the United Na-

ited Nations said the ambas-sador, who will be accompanied hy a ten-person delegation, will visit Britain, Italy, the Czecb Republican, Oman, Argentina, and Honduras. Her first scheduled meetings are with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and Botswana Foreign Minister Gaositwe K.T. Chiepe in London.

Ms. Albright will carry a message from the president of the United States expressing "the determination of our

government to make sure age noncompliance rather that sanctions are not prematurely lifted on Iraq, the U.S. official said.

Times.

"The goal," he said, "is that as a result of this trip, and other efforts, there will A U.S. official at the Unbe a large group of countries who would not support any such effort." One of the periodic re-

views of Iraqi compliance with Security Council ceasefire resolutions is scheduled for early March.

The main thrust of the U.S. message is that "in light of the fact that Iraq's comnliance has been grudging and incomplete, any lifting of sanctions or talk of lifting sanctions would only encour-

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 23 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nairoukh pharmacy 625672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Dr. Ali Al Shoqairi 246140

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AMMAN: Dr. Hanna Mansour

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than promote compliance." the official said. The official noted that Ms.

Albright met with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl earlier this month and discussed the issue at length, so she will not visit Germany on this trip. She also has no plans to visit the other Security Council member-countries -France, Russia, China, Nigeria, Rwanda, and In-

The ambassador will not be visiting France or Russia because "their views have been well-known for some time --they disagree with our views, so there's no point," the U.S. official said.

been pressing the council to begin easing the sanctions as a reward for the steps Iraq has taken, especially cooper-aring with the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (UN-SCOM). The two countries would like the council to set a date for the lifting of the oil emhargo after the long-term monitoring system has been operational for six months and certified by UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus.

Iraq's cooperation with UNSCOM is important to the United States, the official pointed out, hut the U.S. position on sanctions is not Shi'ite in the south.

based solely on the destruction of Iraq's weapons
"Our position on sanctions
on Iraq," be said, "is based
on a judgement call the Un-

ited States believes the council should make about Iraqi intentions, and those intentions are determined by their behaviour across the board - including the deployment of forces in the south last October, including the refusal to return Kuwaiti equip-ment, including the refusal to provide an accounting of Kuwaiti prisoners, including the refusal to renounce terrorism, including the refusal to stop repression against the Kurds in the north and the

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Filights

(Terminal 1)

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Marrow (small)

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the newcomers were t much for the market to have HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN Besides small size, of Dep. Ammun ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sanday Arr. Ammun ... 5:00 p.m. every Sanday factors add to the marke toughness, dealers said. T issues they mentioned me than once were governm customs policies and lack T PRICES copyright protection for s

Customs officers are u to setting rates on produ with slowly changing price such as automobiles,"

PLAY Play (in Arabic) entir

at the Royal Cultural Circ on Thursday at

Display of Bani Hau new designs of rugs at Bani Hamida House, J

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO Cocotte Minutes 17:90 Cocotte Minules 17:30 Que Le Micliuer Gagne 18:00 Marion NI News in French ... Fa U1 Pas Revera 19:30 Ramadan in the World 19:35 You Bet Your Life 20:10 Movies, Games, and Videos 21:15 The Cape Rebel 22:10 News in English "Another Pair of Aces: Three of Stay the Night

PRAYER TIMES

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tcl: 622366

Anglican Church Tcl. 630851, Tcl. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tcl. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. 524.28.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.

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EMERGENCIES

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality Complaints. Telephone Information (directory assistance)

Electric Power

... 787111 Repairs 623107 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Arnal Hospital 674155 ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sin. Hospital (09)986732
Al Hilona Modern Hospital (09)990990

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

RBD:

HOSPITALS FOR THE TRAVELLER

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVALS

rugaus	
(Terminal 1)	
95:45 Jakarta, Singapore (99:15 Aqaba (09:40 New Delhi	R
09:15 Agaba (R
09:40 New Delhi I	R
09:55 Karachi, Dubei (R
10:15 Beirut (R
10:25 Colombo (R
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (R
16:45 Frankfurt, Vienna	R
16:50 Cairo (R
17:55 London, Berlin (28:20 Kuala Lumpur (R
20:20 Kuala Lumpur (R
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Other Flights (Terminal	ľ

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22:90 Cairo (M	5

Beirut (RJ)	MARKET
Aqaba (RJ) Lumpur (RJ)	Upper/lower price
ew York (RJ) . Madrid (RJ) Brussels (RJ)	Apple Banana
London (RI)	Banana (Mukam Cabbage
in, Doha (RJ) Larnaca (RJ)	Carrot Cauliflower
. Joddah (R I)	Cucumbers (large

Eggplan1 ... Garlic Grape Fruit Green Beanse ... Onion (dry)
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EXHIBITIONS

Prime Minister

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FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Ramadan were Their Royal Highnesses Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Princes Abdullah, Faisal and Ali, Prime Prince Hassan attend Friday prayers at Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the Hamzeh Ben Abdul Muttaleb Mosque in speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses Amman. Sheikh Mustafa Rufati, who of Parliament, Royal Court Chief Mardelivered the sermon, called for intensify- wan Al Qasem, the King's advisors, Chief ing efforts to turn Jordan into a model for Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and the region, thus contributing to achieving his son Prince Firas, the private chamber-the principles which King Hussein has lain, Prince Hassan's special advisor and continuously upheld. Also attending the senior military and civil officials. last Friday prayers of the Holy Month of

Queen attends performance of Sabri Mudallal ensemble

erament has faces the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation beld an iftar followed hy a performance featuring Syrian Sheikh of chanting Sabri Mudallal and the Ensemble of Heritage at the Inter-Continental Hotel, according to a Royal Court statement.

Mr. Mndallal and his ensemble sang Muwasbahat, Mayamat, Mawaweel. Adwar, Halabi Kodoud, Nabawi praises and other songs from the nch musical beritage of the Arah World at The Thursday night event, the statement said...

Queen Noor, who of the Arah World in Paris.

talked with Mr. Mudallal and his ensemble and thanked them for transforming the evening into a special musical experience that is uniquely Arab, said the statement. Sabri Mudallal's ensemble,

which was established in 1954, has performed in various Arab and European festivals such as the 1985 Au-tumn Festival in Paris, the 1985 Festival of Arab Music Days in France, the 1985 Asian Arts Festival in Hong Kong, the 1988 European tour, the 1993 Mediterranean. Song Festival in Greece, the 1993 International Festival of Arab Music in Beirut and the 1993 Festival at the Institute

Sheikh Mudallal learns the art of channing at the age of 12 under Omar Batsh, the Syrian sheikh of artists at that

He joined the Syria Radio

Station when it was established in 1942 and remained there until 1954. In addition to being the Syrian sheikh of chanting, he is a composer of 38 popular

chants to date. Queen Noor, said the statement, was received by Senator Leila Sharaf, Mrs. Hind Nasser, Mr. Kifah Fakhouri, the director of the National Music Conservatory, and the committee members of the conserva-

Computer products dealers discuss market potential at American show

By Ian Atalla Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Jordan's computer market is cramped to say the least, according to Zeid Nasser of Byte magazine, a computer technology

"We sell around 1,000 copies per issue here, and we don't think the market will allow for more," said the Byte sales representative. Meanwhile Byte, a fivemonth-old newcomer to the Middle East, has already managed to sell "six to seven times that amount" in Egypt and Sandi Arabia. "That tells yon bow small the computer market in Jordan really is."

Small or not, the local market does not seem to lack ambition, if a visit to the two-day American Computer Show was any indication. Twenty-one Jordanian companies and dealerships, at east 15 of them less than a decade old, and 11 of them non-existent before 1990, crowded the showroom at the Philadelphia Hotel on Thurs-

day and Friday. firms are going to make it," 'Certainly, not all these He's said Mabmond Salameb, marketing director for Mirage Information Technology Group, maintaining that all the newcomers were too much for the market to hand-

> Besides small size, other , factors add to the market's toughness, dealers said. Two issues they mentioned more than once were government customs policies and lack of copyright protection for soft-

to setting rates on products "Customs officers are used with slowly changing prices, such as automobiles," said

Ramzi Zeine, managing director of STS. They bave not gotten used to volatile pricing where changes occur every two or three weeks, as is the case with the computer

industry.' As for copyright protection of computer products in Jordan, "it's a major concern," said A. Majied Qasem, an engineer for Access. Although the Kingdom has sufficient legislation in the books to provide solid protection, be said, "it isn't being applied."

Thus, he maintained, Jordan bad some possibilines of competing as a development and export centre for software in the Middle East, but local merchants were hesitant to jump into this potentially lucrative aspect of the computer trade.

You can't afford to spend all the time and money needed to bring in experts and develop a software package, and then see only two copies sold before it gets pirated," Mr. Qasem said. Frustrarions and limita-

tions of the local market do not seem to be putting a complete damper on trader's energies, however. Mr. Qasem's firm is hoping to contract with the Amman Financial Market (AFM) to antomate the exchange, where husiness is currently being conducted mainly hy pencil, paper and chalk-

"We have offered the idea to them, and there is no solid agreement yet," said Mr. Qasem. "If it were done, it would be within the next year

And despite the concerns of piracy, at least one company has taken the plunge into software developing

"Since everyone else has their doubts about getting into it, we decided to get a head start on them," said Ahmad Tantash, general manager of Tantash Information Systems Group, which is mainly designing Arabiclanguage software packages for large business offices. In lieu of solid government protection against illicit copying of company programmes, he said, his technicians simply try 10 pack any software they develop with the toughest anti-piracy programming

they can come up with. Meanwhile, Mr. Zeine linked the third annual compuler expo at the Philadelphia, organised by the U.S. emhassy to let local dealers of American computer products display their merchandise, with what he believed was the current determination of U.S. computer firms to make inroads against stiff compension from Taiwan in Middle East mar-

The Taiwanese, several dealers said, have long beld a significant share of the regional market by offering computer products significantly cheaper than those from other industrial coun-

The Americans realised that Taiwan was becoming a major threat," Mr. Zeine said. "and as a result they have begun to price accor-dingly. Now, most American computer products have become only 10 per cent more expensive than their

Taiwanese counterparts. The expo, which closed Friday evening, was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

By a Jordan Times The Washington meeting, would have meant heavy on the other rather than facpressure on Israel to fully which grouped the foreign ing all the three Arab parties ministers of Jordan, Egypt adhere to the commitment on across the table." and Israel and a senior reprethe displaced Palestinians it Under the DoP, the main sentative of the Palestine undertook in the Declaration issue on the table for the placed at any time. National Authority (PNA). of Principles (DoP) it signed meeting on the displaced per-The Jordanian priority, with the PLO in September was convened with a view to sons would be the modalities

Arab-Israeli meeting on displaced Palestinians

postponed; no new date set — senior official

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Arab-Israeli meening scheduled to be held in Amman on Sunday on the repatriation of displaced Palestinians has been postponed, and no new date has been set, a senior official said riday.

Assem Ghosheb, director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, added, bowever, that he was not aware of the precise reason for the postponement. "I was informed by the Foreign Minister (Ahdul

that the meeting was postponed under a decision taken in the (Feb. 12) Washington meeting," Mr. Ghosheh told the Jordan Times.

Karim Kabariti) last week

"No new date has been set as of loday (Friday).

seeking means to address the troubled Middle East peace process, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian track of negoviations.

According to local columnists and analysts, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimoe Peres wanted the meeting on the displaced persons deferred. The Israeli stand. according to the analysts and columnists, came when Mr. Peres saw that Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-led PNA had coordinated their positions ahead of the meet-

Such an Arab coordination

Jordan, Egypt and the PLO held a meeting in early February in Cairo to coordinare their stands. They drew up a set of riorities and classifications

the displaced persons and agreed to present a joint approach to the Israelis during the Amman meeting. Israel did not appear to have prepared itself for such an eventuality where the three Arah parties would have a joint stand," saio a

seasoned observer.

"Obviously, it was noping that Israel and the PLO would be on one side of the

and mechanisms for the repatriation of these people rather than any debate on the very essence of repatriation or the right of the displaced persons to return home.

There is no question of any fresb negotiations on the right of the displaced persons to return nome," said a Jordanian official. "Israel has undertaken to respect the rights of the displaced persons to return 10 their homeland, and the only issue that will be discussed at the proposed meeting will be how to organise their return."
Mr. Ghosheh told the Jor-

dan Times that "no new date table with Jordan and Egypt has been set for the meeting."

had prepared itself to present the Kingdom's perceptions of the repatriation of the dis-

according to officials, is to formulate a "clear mecbanism" that would ensure the 'orderly return" of the displaced persons starting with the Palestinians stranded in Jordan after their Israeliissued exit and entry permits expired in the years after 1967, "family reunifications" and the return of those who were actually displaced in the 1967 war.

The officials say that while the sequence of the return of the three categories should be in that order, they do not see any reason that they could not take place simulianeously under a predetermined time-table.

Slovakian delegation ends visit opening door for trade links

kian delegation, led by Peter Mihok, Friday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan during which its members met with business community leaders and Jordanian officials to discuss promotion of economic and trade ties.

Mr. Mihok, who is head of the Slovakian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on Thursday signed an agree-ment paving the ground for mutual cooperation mainly in trade, joint investments, services and economic affairs.

Under the agreement, which was signed by Haidar Murad, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, both sides pledged to back the work of societies, organisations and companies in either country

AMMAN (J.T.) - A Slova- trying to establish trade and economic links between Jordan and Slovakia and remove trade obstacles.

They also pledged to take measures leading to join: trade fairs, the exchange of visits by concerned groups and to hold consultations and organise conferences to achieve these goals.

They also agreed to exchange information on market situations, and publications regarding trade and economic fields.

Before the signing of the agreement, Mr. Murad held talks with the Slovak delegation to discuss prospects for promoting trade between the two countries, Jordan's central geographic location and prospects for oromoting trade in the region.

Bosnian Serbs detain Jordanian reporter

Serb forces detained a Jordanian journalist at a road checkpoint near Sarajevo airport on Thursday, a United Nanons military spokesman

reported. The woman, Sbanwat Nahrawan, was being held in the Serb-controlled suburb of Ilidza and it appeared that she would stay in detention overnight, said Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward.

(According to Jordan Press Association (JPA) sources, Ms. Nahrawan is a Yugoslav journalist married to a Jorda-

SARAJEVO (R) - Bosnian nian and holding dua! nationality.)
She and an Egyptian repor-

ter were being driven by two U.N. military observers from the airport to the Bosnian government-hold city centre when Bosnian Serb soldiers stopped the vehicle at midday, he said. The two U.N. observers,

one of whom was Egyptian, and the Egyptian journalist were freed after about three bours, be said. U.N. civilian police were now trying to secure Ms. Nahrawan's re-

announcement on pension raises drawing up the plan has final-ised its work and will submit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government to speed up work on raising the pension of retired servicemen, the central committee overseeing servicemen's affairs expects the government to announce its decision on the increments this week, according to retired Brigadier Aref Utaibi,

Mr. Utaibi, who heads the central council committee set up by the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation of Retired Servicemen (JESORS), told the Jordan Times Friday that a Finance Ministry team entrusted with it to the Cabinet for approv-

Retired servicemen expect Cabinet

He said the plan was expected to include meaningful increases in renred officers and soldiers' pensions.

Last December, the gov-

ernment announced that officers and soldiers retiring after Dec. 1, 1994 would receive an increase of JD 25 and JD 22.5 respectively on their pensions. The government excluded all those who had retired before December

Brig. Utaibi led JESORS representatives in appealing to King Hussein and Prime

Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who pledged immediare action towards raising the pension of all retired service-

The Finance Ministry is keeping a tight lid on the margin of the expected increases in servicemen's pension until the plan has been endorsed by the cabinet, said

Brig. Utaihi. Brig. Utaibi and his committee last week met with Finance Minister Basel Jardanch to discuss the increases in the course of the committec's drive to ensure sizeable raises for the retired service-

CSC to offer 2% of new jobs to qualified handicapped persons

AMMAN Petra) - The Civil Service Commission (CSC) intends to see that two per cent of government office jobs created in 1995 offered to qualified handicapped per-sons, according to CSC Presi-dent Abdullah Ulayyan.

Mr. Ulayyan said in a statement Friday that the CSC will seek Cabinet reaffirmation that the Jordanian law governing the care of the handicapped (which allows for the unemployment of disabled people) is im-

As soon as the government gives the green light, expected this month, to the CSC to fill vacant or newlycreated civil service positions, the commission would begin selecting eligible persons, he said.

Mr. Ulayyan added that 2,750 new jobs bave been created in various ministries and departments: 1,700 within the Ministry of Education: 700 in the Ministry of Health; and the remainder to other departments.

The CSC plans to assign

200 jobs to qualified persons from needy families and whose qualifications and training conform to the principles and terms set hy the Public Administrative De-

velopment Council. The CSC has received 150 applications since the beginning of this year to be studied hy the CSC board hefore a decision to appoint them is taken.

As a maner of policy, the CSC will appoint sons and daughters of Jordanian martyrs whenever possible.

Interfaith pilgrims arrive in S. Shuneh; walk for peace and life to Salt, Amman

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of an interfaith pilgrimage for peace and life Friday arrived here, having walked from South Shuneh to Salt (Thursday), and from Salt to Amman yesterday

The majority of the group crossed the King Hussein Bridge on Wednesday afternoon. Thirteen of them were sent to the northern Jordan-Israel bordercrossing to obtain entry visas, but finally were reunited with the rest of the group and spent the night at a private farm in

South Shuneh. A few of the pilgrims opted to sleep outside, where possible, and within minutes of arrival at the farm they had found suitable ground to lay their sleeping hags. "If you're looking for

me," said one member to another, "I'll be resting and meditating under that tree."

The pilgrimage, which is in commemoration of the anniversary of the end of World War II, was initiated and organised by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist religious order in Japan.

Although the pilgrims adhere to different religions, even those that are not Buddhist recite a Buddhist mantra, "Na-Mu-Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo.'' and practise

meditation, a practice central to Buddhism.

When asked the meaning of the mantra. one member said: "I have been told that the more you say it, the clearer the meaning becomes. But some say it means 'there is one truth' or 'may all beings be enlightened'."

The Nipponzan Myohoji order of monks is headed by Brother G. Sasamori, who is also the leader of this leg of the four-leg pilgrimage. This section began on

Oct. 10 in Poland and will culminate in Japan with the final stretch between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The other three legs of

the pilgrimage will have covered the U.S., India and Japan. The Indian and Japanese parts will converge in Japan with the group that is currently here.

In South Shuneh, on the first night, four of the pilgrims were invited to spend the night with a Bedouin family.

"We were two men and women and the family provided us with everything including bedding. They were very hospitable, offering us food and drink all night," said Chilean iournalism student Maea

"There were 12 sisters, seven brothers, a father and two mothers. Some of the older girls

Garcia.

had learnt English at school, and they told us that they had come from Palestine 13 years ago. Even the oldest children were too young to remember it, so they kept asking us about the West Bank and what it is like there," Mr. Garcia told the Jordan times.

Many of the pilgrims remarked on the 'stunning beauty" of the scenery they witnessed between the Jordan Valley and Salt.

"I never expected to see scenes like that here. It was awe-inspiring, one group member said. As yet, the group have

had little contact with people beyond that of the police that "escorted us while we walked," said American Dan Turner who is accompanied by his wife. "The police and au-

thorities have been very concerned for us and very positive (about what we are doing). They also carried a few people who were sick and brought them to Salt," Mr. Turner said.

In Salt the group were put up in the Latin School, where they were able to wash, cook and Mr. Turner heard ab-

out the pilgrimage through a social justice magazine of which he had been the editor for four years.

"One day a lady called to enquire about an article we

had published, and during the conversation she told me about the pilgrimage. Once my wife and I received more information about it we sold everything, our house, our furniture, even our books and prepared to join the walk," he

While in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel, Mr. Turner said that the interfaith group mer with Palestinian and Israeli peace organisa-

"In each country we have tried 10 meet with people from all sides of a conflict. In former Yugoslavia we had meetings with Croatian Catbolics, Bosnian Mus-lims and Serbian Orthodox. Our purpose is to remain neutral and to express our compassion and deep concern for all those who suffer in conflict," Mr. Turner said, adding that if a stance is adopted, "you make an enemy of a whole

group of people." If this was the case, then the objective of the peace walk would have been defeated, he said.

In the occupied territories and Israel, he said, the pilgrimage had met with positivism. In Gaza "we were treated like royalty, fed and entertained. There was singing and dancing in the evenings, and when we walked in the streets, people, particularly children, crowded around us and walked with us," Mr. Tur-

ner told the Jordan Times. He said that the desire for peace in Gaza was "as strong as in Israel." woile some Palestinians and Israelis expressed anger towards the other.

"But both sides express disillusionment with the a bridge of commonality," which could be huilt on he

added.

The pilgrimage is made up of 15 different nationalities and various cultural religious and social hackgrounds.

Throughout their journey the pilgrims are in close proximity, often physically fired with difficult hygiene conditions to handle, Mr. Turner said.

Here they have been fortunate with their accommodation which included one night at the New English School. Accommodation for their final night (Saturday) has yet to be confirmed.

"Yes, there are disagreements and arguments, but we work them through. Diversity and disagreements do not have to mean antagonism and separation," he said, adding: "if we can live logether (in sometimes) difficult circumstances), we hope this is some sort of symbol that it is possible."

Laurel, another pilgrim, fractured her ankle on the third day and only recently rejoined the 14,000kilometre journey, of which about 4,500 kilometres will be covered on foot.

We cannot advise and we cannot judge... but we try to empathise without taking sides," Mr. Laurel

Today the pilgrims will make preparations for their departure on Sunday. About 35 of them intend to go to Iraq, while the others will fly ahead to India where they will team up with the group already

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

rapic Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Are Not Yourself" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 9:00

EXHIBITIONS

🗘 Display of Bani Hamida new designs of rugs at the Bani Hamida House, Jab-

al Amman (Tel. 658696). ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Sabah Ibrahim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection

(Tel. 688701). ★ Exhibition of handicrafts[®] by Hasmig Kuymjian at the Royal Cultural Centre. & Photo exhibition at the

Friends of Archaeology

☆ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages at the American Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

OTTAWA (AP) - Delicately confronting a dispute that has bitterly divided Cana-dians, U.S. President Bill Clinton offered clear support Thursday for a united Canada, angering separatist leaders battling for an independent Quebec.

In a closely watched speech to parliament, Mr. Clinton tempered his remarks hy saying it's up to Canada to decide its own political future, but he made no secret of America's longstanding preference for a unified coun-

"In a world darkened by ethnic conflicts that literally tear nations apart," Mr. Clinton said, "Canada has stood for all of us as a model of how people of different cultures can live and work together in peace, prosperity and respect." He pointedly noted President Harry Truman's praise for "Canada's notable achievement of national uni-

Prime Minister Jean Chretien and members of the Liberal Party loudly cheered Mr. Clinton's remarks.

Opposition leader Lucien Bouchard, the most popular separatist figure in Quebec, remained seated, looking grim. Moments later, though, Mr. Bouchard stood and cheered when Mr. Clinton went on to declare that "your political future is entirely for you to decide.

However, Mr. Bouchard was clearly unhappy with the thrust of Mr. Clinton's remarks.

"There is nothing in the diplomatic code that obliges me to stand up and applaud something I do not like to hear." Mr. Bouchard told reporters later.

An independence referendum has been promised this

BONN (R) — Germany Fri-

day banned the far-right Free

German Workers' Party

(FAP), one of the largest and

most radical neo-Nazi groups

and one that has been linked

to racist and anti-semitic

In Hamburg, local authorities also outlawed the the

right-wing National List, a

small group headed by

Christian Worch, one of Ger-

many's most influential neo-

Nazis and a driving force

behind efforts to create a

national neo-Nazi network.

ruled the FAP was not a true

way for the government to

outlaw the group and confis-

cate its wealth and property,

the Interior Ministry said in a

Interior Minister Manfred

Kanther immediately

ordered widespread police

raids on the homes of FAP

four far-right groups in a

crackdown against neo-Nazi

violence that surged alar-

mingly after unification in

1990 and in which at least 30

people, most of them fore-

igners, have been killed.
"We must fight extremism

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP)

— Two Pakistani Roman

Catholics saved from the gal-

lows after being acquitted of blasphemy charges remain in mortal danger, their lawyer

said here Friday as indignant

Muslims denonnced the rul-

ing. Salamat Masih, 14, and his

uncle Rehmat Masih. 44.

were still being held in a local

jail pending legal formalities following their acquittal by

the Lahore High Court Thursday in a ruling hailed by Christians and civil liberta-

danger," defence counsel Hina Jilani said, adding that

we are still discussing where

to keep them" after their

"Of course one thing is

sure: They will not be sent to

their village," stressed Jilani,

who said her team was trying

hard to get the two out of the

jail Friday, despite a religious

holiday in this predominantly

The Masihs were sent-

enced to death by a lower

court earlier this month for

allegedly scrawling blasphe-

mous remarks on the wall of

a mosque and throwing

scraps of paper bearing sac-

rilegious words into the com-

pound in their village at Gu-

ranwala district near here.

ruled there was no evidence

to substantiate the accusa-

tions, triggering an outcry

from Muslims who wanted

the two executed for alleged-

ly blaspheming the Prophet

But the Lahore High Court

Muslim nation.

'We know their lives are in

Bonn has banned at least

The Constitutional Court

rarry, clearing the

attacks.

year for Quebec, a Frenchspeaking province of 7 million people.

The prime minister said he was "absolutely" satisfied with the way Mr. Clinton handled the Quebec question. "I think they got the message," Mr. Clinton told

Bouchard met with Mr. Clinton privately and argued his case for an independent Quebec, promising it would not change relations with Washington. "Americans will just have one more friend," he said. He expressed satisfaction that, for the first time, he had an opportunity to present his side to an American president

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said Mr. Clinton "reacted politely and he thanked Mr. Bouchard for the opportunity to learn more about the separatist movement.

In his speech to parlia-ment, Mr. Clinton won warm applause from all sides by principles of resist Republican-led efforts at home to cut back on international peacekeeping duties and other U.S. foreign commitments.

Ottawa was blanketed with snow but skies were sunny and the weather was almost spring-like as Mr. Clinton arrived for an overnight stay, his first state visit to Canada. Skaters raced along the frozen Ridean Canal as his mntorcade rode hy, and some cross-country skiers waved to the president in the countryside on his ride in from the

airport. Mr. Clinton's trip was a celebration of extraordinarily warm relations between the United States and Canada, whose \$250 hillion trade rela-

from the right as well as the left with determination."

Mr. Kanther said in the state-

its nature the Nazi party,

revered Nazi leaders and fos-

tered Nazi rites," he added.

'It scorned human rights, de-

famed democratic institutions

and spread racist and anti-

state of Hamburg said the

National List was outlawed

there on the same basis as the

FAP after the Constitutional

Court ruled it was not a

for two years in November

has been credited with orga-

nising a demonstration by 500

neo-Nazis who dodged police

crodons to parade Nazi-style

through the city of Fulda in

A recent government re-port said FAP leaders spoke

in Nazi terms of seizing pow-

er, jailing their enemies in

work camps or executing

with far-right groups Russia, particularly the hanned fas-

cist Russian National Unity

danger as Muslims plan demonstration

Rasheed Murtaza Qureshi (hands raised), prosecuting

lawyer in the case of Christians Salamat Masih and Rehmat

Masih, announces his boycott of the high court appeal

proceedings. Mr. Qureshi charges that the high court is not

impartial in the case, Salamat and Rehmat were sentenced

to death by a lower court for blasphemy. The main

complainanat Maulvi Fazal Haq is at front (AFP photo)

A third defendant, Man-

zoor Masih, was slain by gun-

men last year. He was not

related to the two who were

Observers said the two

could be flown abroad quietly

acquitted.

or else go into hiding like authors Salman Rushdie of

Britain and Taslima Nasreen

of Bangladesh. Muslim cler-

ics had issued "fatwahs" nr

religious edicts urging follow-

ers of Islam to kill both wri-

ters for blasphemy.

Acquitted Pakistani Christians are in

They had cultivated ties

Among other things, he

for neo-Nazi activities.

A spokesman for the city

Semitic tirades."

political party. Mr. Worch, 38

"The FAP... resembled in

Bonn outlaws 2 neo-Nazi groups

tionship is the largest in the

"There probably has not been a time in our relations with Canada in the last decade or more in which there were less problems in our bilateral relationships," Anthony Lake, Mr. Clinton's national security adviser.

Following a tradition of visiting foreign leaders, Mr.
Clinton helped plant a sugar
maple tree in the front yard
of Rideau Hall, the official residence of Canadian Governor General Romeo Leblanc. Six other Americans have planted trees on the 88-acre grounds; John F. Kennedy seriously aggra-vated an old back injury in 1961 when he threw a dozen shovelfuls of dirt to plant two

red oaks. Canadian newspapers stressed Mr. Clinton's sag-ging popularity and political backs. In contrast, Mr. Chretien is enormously popular after 16 months in office, presiding over an economy with strong growth, low infla-tion and declining unemploy-ment, although troubled by a weakening currency.

In his speech, Mr. Clinton zeroed in on a foreign policy provisions of the Republicans' "Contract With America." A house-passed hill would sharply restrict the presi-dent's authority to pnt U.S. forces under United Nations command. The issue has divided Republicans and faces a test in the Senate.

'There are those in both our nations who say we can no longer afford to and perhaps we no longer even need to exercise our leadership in the world," Mr. Clinton said, "And when so many of our people have

The FAP has been the

largest of the radical neo-

Nazi groups causing unease in Germany through its in-

creasingly visible rallies of

public flaunting of its anti-

The group itself claims to

have several thousand sup-

porters, but the government

put its membership at about

Several FAP officials have

Earlier this month, police

been implicated in crimes.

swooped down on 66 homes

and offices of FAP members

in nine federal states after a

rally in which the rightists

waved banners bearing Swas-

tikas and gave the stiff-arm

More than 50 FAP officials

are being probed as a result

for breaking the law banning Nazi symbols. The suspects include FAP national chief

Friedhelm Busse, 73, widely regarded as a leading figure in the German neo-Nazi

"Following the Constitu-tional Court decision that the FAP is not a political party, a

ban became the only reason-

able measure," Mr. Kanther

foreigner policies.

400 in 1993

Hitler salute.

their own problems, it is easy to listen to that assertion. But it is wrong.

His statement drew hearty applause. For all practical purposes, Canada invented the notion of peacekeeping and strongly supports such missions. In a luncheon toast, Mr.

Clinton celebrated the two nations' friendship by recalling the words of Mr. Kennedy when he visited in 1961: "Geography has made us neighbours; history has made us friends; economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies." Mr. Clinton added, "Presi-

dent Kennedy proclaimed our wedding vows. I'm here to tell you we should affirm them."
Meanwhile, in his well-

orchestrated return to political life, Mr. Bouchard seems to be having second thoughts about going ahead this year with a referendum on independence in the Frenchspeaking province of seven

The latest polls show only 40 per cent of Quebec voters support independence, and Mr. Bouchard believes a referendum would be a mistake if separatists can't win.

Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau, however, is steadfast that the referendum will go abead in 1995, as prom-

Mr. Parizeau's separatist Parti Quebecois won last fall's provincial election on a platform of transforming Quebec into an independent, French-speaking nation.

A year before, Mr. Bouchard's Bloc Quebecois. which is effectively the national arm of the Parti Quebecois, became the official opposition in the House of Commons.

Christopher

OTTAWA (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren

Christopher was resting com-

fortably at an Ottawa hospit-

al Friday where he was being

treated for a small bleeding

stomach ulcer that cut short

his participation in a U.S.-

Deputy State Department spokesman David Johnson

said "if things go as we expect they will" Mr. Christopher

would be released Friday but

that he might have to be

admitted to a hospital in

ment upon his return to the

Mr. Christopher, 69, com-plained of feeling ill after a

late afternoon meeting

Thorsday with Canadian Ex-

ternal Affairs Minister Andre

Ouellet and after consulting

his Los Angdes physician by phone was taken to the

emergency department of Civic Hospital

A hospital gastroenter-ologist, Paul Deneanlt, said

he found a "very, very small ulcer oozing a little bit of

blood," into Mr. Christ-

opher's bowl. An injection of

medicine promptly stopped

the bleeding, he said.
"He's fit as a fiddle he's a

very healthy man, and at the

present time he's doing quite

well and we're just observing

him," said the hospital's vice

president of medical affairs,

treated

for ulcer

Canada summit.

U.S. capital.

Honour guards salute as Russian President Boris Yeltsin (centre) and Premier Victor Chernomyrdin (right) stand silent at the Tomb

mony marking the Day of the Defender of the Fatherland, or Army Day. Mr. Yeltsin later told reporters he was ready to take personal of the Unknown Soldier just outside the control of reforming the army after its poor Moscow Kremlin during a wreath-laying cere-

Yeltsin: Russian army is getting 'wobbly

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin marked a major military holiday by admitting that the Russian army is getting "wobbly" and needs reform, but be denied widespread reports of sol-diers' atrocities in Chechenva.

His defensive comments on a day the Kremlin once used to boast about Soviet might reflect the nation's subdued, pessimistic mood after 21/2 months of a war that has killed tens of thousands in southern Russia.

A "die-in" called by several groups to protest the war on former Red Army Day now Defenders of the Fatherland Day - drew only a few dozen demonstrators in downtown Moscow. Numerous other rallies also have

failed to draw large crowds. "People are tired," said Angelika Chaichina, 60, one of those picketing in front of the Defence Ministry. "They don't trust the government or anyone else, but they don't understand that it's their own

PARIS (AP) — Emmanuel

Robles, author of nearly 40

works exploring the homan

condition and friend of

Albert Camus, has died, his

publisher announced Thors-

day. He was 80... Mr. Robles died Wednes-

day in Boulogone, according to the Seuil Publishing House. The cause of death

was not immediately known.

best known for Montserrat, a

play about the Venezulean

resistance to the Spanish in-

vasion. The work was trans-

lated into more than 20 lan-

guages and sold in more than

A prolific writer of novels,

plays, poetry, essays, and short stories, Robles was fas-

cinated with the brotherhood

of Mediterranean cultures

40 countries.

Mr. Robles was perhaps

fault" for having elected Mr. Yeltsin and parliament. "For 70 years we were

powerless to change anything, and we got used to that," she said.

Mr. Yeltsin, after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, promised to pursue long-overdue changes in the Russian army, whose poor funding and training and general idsarray have been shown graphically in Chechenya.

'Chechenya has convinced us once again that we are too late with conducting military reform," he told reporters. We must not delay any more, the army is beginning to get a bit wobbly. We must do everything to give it confi-

In a vague reference to the public's strong wish that the war be ended, he said Russian soldiers "need not wor-ry" — the "people" want them to come home soon. He also defended the conduct of the Russian military, severely

criticised for the deaths of thousands of Chechen civihans and alleged mistreatment of others.
"No matter what is written

about the army, our soldiers never fire at the backs of old people, never use them as a shield, never hide in their houses in order to turn them into gun posts," he said, as quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency. "Our soldiers fight bonourably, and this is the main thing." the main thing."

Visiting the war-torn north

Caucasus, Mr. Yeltsin's for-mer prime minister Yegor Gaidar, said the war is not only dangerous for the army but unwinnable because of its partisan nature.

The type of conflict in Chechenya is terrible for any modern army because it is not equipped to fight a war against its own people," Mr... Gaidar told the Associated

Also, he said, "there is no possibility of winning except by exterminating all the peo-

Press in Nazran, Ingushetia.

Author Emmanuel Robles dies at 80

and the conflict between vio-Lnis Bunuel adapted a Robles novel in his film Cela S'Appealle L'Aurore (It is lence and humanity themes he explored in many of his works. Called Dawn). Born in Oran, in western

extensively, at ease in Latin and Mediterranean culnoted works. tures. In Algeria, be met Camus.

The two cultivated a firm friendship. They worked together at the newspaper Alger Republicain in the 1940s. Mr. Robles first made his

Algeria, Mr. Robles travelled

literary mark with Les Hauteurs De La Ville (City Heights), which won France's prestigious Femina Prize in 1948. The novel was inspired by a Muslim revolt in Setif, Algeria, against French occu-

In 1952, movie director

The novels, Les Couteaux

(The Knives) and La Remontee Du Fleuve (The River Rising), are among other Later in his career, Mr. Robles dwelled on contem-

porary tragedies such as Hiroshima and the Chinese Civil War. He was deeply troubled about the human struggle for dignity and the pain "which makes men cry across the ages."
In April, Seul will publish

Jeunes Saisons (Young Seasons) and Camus, Frere De Soleil (Camus, Brother Of The Sun) which celebrates Robles' friendship with the author.

All Creatures author James Herriot dies

LONDON (AFP) — James Herriot, Britain's most Dales of northern England more than 40 years ago. His famous vet and one of its best-known contemporary anthors, died of prostate can-cer, aged 78, at his home near ery major language.

Thirsk in northern England. He had been ill for three years hut had asked that the nature of his illness not be disclosed while he was alive. The author began writing

about his experiences as a country vet in the Yorkshire

to with the court when the

court is available to hear my

The subject that sparked

the dispute involved Mr.

Cochran's efforts to question

Officer Lange about a police

interview with Simpson's

vounger daughter Sydney af-

ter her mother was mur-

dered, and about whether

..., Resnick had moved in

with Ms. Simpson 10 days

earlier. The defence objected

that the line of questioning

involved hearsay and

assumed facts that had not

been brought into evidence.

conference. It wasn't im-

mediately known exactly

what Mr. Darden said to

anger the judge during that

But Judge Ito cited Mr.

Darden for his "refusal to

obey the court's order not to-

address (an) issue, not to

speak to the court as I was

hearing from one counsel,

discussion.

That led to the sidebar

concerns."

19 books have since sold some 60 million copies and have been translated into ev-

Mr. Herriot became a household name following the immensely popular televi-sion series All Creatures Great And Small and films based on his books.

The series, with repeats and overseas sales, has been

sbown almost continuously somewhere in the world since 1978. At the same time, an area of one of the most beautiful parts of England was put on the tourist map, and a "Herriot country" in-

dustry was born. Herriot, whose real name was James Alfred Wight known to friends as Alf worked as a vet for a quarter of a century without writing a

Chris Carruthers. Simpson prosecutor cited for contempt of court

LOS ANGELES (AP) -The judge in the O.J. Simpson case cited a prosecutor for contempt of court for repeatedly interrupting dur-ing a heated discussion at the bench. But the prosecutor escaped punishment by apologising.
"It appears that the court is

correct, that perhaps my comments may have been or are somewhat inappropriate," Prosecutor Christopher Darden told Judge Lance Ito. "I apologise to the court. I meant no disrespect."

Judge Ito offered an apology of his own, assured Mr. Darden that the prosecutor's behaviour was "out of character," and let the trial resume with detective Tom Lange, one of the chief investigators in the murder case, back on the stand.

The confrontation was prompted by a heated exchange at the judge's bench that could not be heard. Judge 1to ordered the jury out of the room and announced that he had cited Mr. Darden for contempt. Prosecutor Marcia Clark

rose to Mr. Darden's defence, complaining that Mr. Darden was frustrated because Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr., who was cross-examining officer Lange at the time, has been "feeding the jury slop." Prosecutors have accused the defence of repeatedly trying to not to interrupt the court." sneak in facts by asking "The court gave three admonitions, and Mr. Darloaded questions. 'Miss Clark, I don't want den chose to ignore those,' Judge Ito said. Earlier in the day, Simpto hear about that," the judge said.

Judge Ito recessed court son's lawyers won the right to show the jury TV footage briefly to give prosecutors time to weigh their options. they contend shows investigators swarming carelessly over Upon his return, Mr. Darden the crime scene. Ms. Clark apologised. 'However," he said, "I did had complained that the have some concerns, concamera lens gave too discerns I would like to take up torted a picture.

> The judge said he will allow the defence to use three excerpts, but he agreed to warn the jury about the possibility of distortion caused by the lens, and he said he needed to see more of a fourth clip before making a decision.

Mr. Cochran argued that the tape is the best record of what happened that day and will show that investigators contaminated or trampled evidence in the tight walkway at Nicole Brown Simpson's condo, where she and Ronald Goldman were found slashed to death on June 12.

"This all would have been handled appropriately if the LAPD would videotape these crime scenes like other big-city departments do. They'd have their own video," Mr. Cochran said.

Bnt Ms. Clark said the footage — apparently taken by telephoto lens from across the street - is misleading because it doesn't accurately show the spatial relationships and doesn't show people's feet. In one scene, she said, the camera makes it look as if investigators were practically on top of one another.

"The very reason the defence wants it is because it is so misleading, it is so inaccurate, it is such a distortion of the truth," Ms. Clark said. The day's session was de-

layed for hours by a private meeting between the judge and attorneys. In another development,

Judge 1to shortened the trial's hours, a move he said earlier would give attorneys more time for preparation. Beginning Monday, the trial will be held from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays. Normally, court has run until about 4:30 p.m. Also Thursday, District

Attorney Gil Garcetti said he was happy with the presentation of the prosecution's evidence so far. But he vowed to retry Simpson if the jury deadlocks.

"I know it's expensive. I don't take that lightly. The taxpayers, my family, my friends, everyone has to pay," he said. "But we're here to seek justice. You have to remember the victims in this case, and in every other case that we handle.

Rolling Stone termed 'anarchic' in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) A Catholic pressure gogin-has called for protests against performances by the Rolling Stones in South Africa which it says will contribute to the morai and psychological chaos afflicting our country "In rejecting authority, mor-als and religion, the Rolling Stones are a most forceful expressison of ... anarchy? the Young South Africans for a Christian Civilisation said in a statement sent to Reuten Friday. Concert promoters said Johannesburg's 63,000 capacity Ellis Park Rugby. Stadium had been virtually sold out for both the Friday Saturday performances by the veterans rock and followed group.

British boy runs away to Malaysia

LONDON (R) — A 14-year old boy who "loves travelling" ran away from home and ended np in Malaysia, his parents said Friday. Peter Kerry of London pilfered his father's credit card to pay for the 8,000-mile (13,000kilometre) journey, they said. Bnt he is now broke and stranded and telephoned home asking for help. "We don't think there is any particular reason why he has chosen Malaysia — he just likes travelling," his mother, Pat Kerry, said. "He loves going on planes and trains and 1 think he may have chosen this country just because it is so far away." She said she had told her son to contact the British High. Commission (embassy) in Kuala Lumpur for help.

Missing British actor 'is alive and well'

LONDON (R) — British

actor Stephen Fry, who mysteriously pulled out of a West End play and disappeared last week, is alive and well, his agent said Friday, Mr. Fry, 37, best known for his portrayal as the butler in the television series "Jeeves And Wooster" based on the PG Wodehouse novels, had been starring in Simon Gray's play-Cell Mates when he left just three days after the opening performance. He wrote to colleagues before his disappearance Saturday, bemoaning his "failure" as an actor. Reviews of the play ance. Concern for his safety grew as days passed with no word from the comedian. Bnt a spokeswoman for his agent Lorraine Hamilton said he had telephoned to say he was all right. "He has gone away" for a while to be by himself, she said, adding that he would not say where he was.

Filmmaker Chen Kaige marries television star BEIJING (AFP) - Film-

maker Chen Kaige, winner of the Golden Palm Award at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival for Farewell My Con-cubine, has wed Ni Ping, a star of Chinese television, the Nanjing Evening News Reported. The couple married ported. The couple married at the end of last year and took a short boneymoon at West Lake in Hanghzou, called a "paradise on earth" by the Chinese, the newspaper said. It was the second marriage for both. Ni Ping is one of China's most popular television presenter of the short regular presenter of the show marking the Lunar New Year. Chen, who along with Zhang Yimou is the best known of the Chinese filmmakers called the Fifth Generation, is shooting his next film, which is focused on Shanghai in the 1930s. Officials punished

for watching strip show

BEIJING (AFP) — Six Chinese officials have nunished after it was discovered that they had sligt the out of an official tour in the United States to watch a strip show. A notice issued Monday by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China said one of the offen ders had been fired while the outs an are received "various" punishments," the Xinhur News Agency reported. The six from Tianjin had visiting Los Angeles in July of last year when they went of last year when they went see the show in Holly said. "Party officials break the rules of distriction of the party and state, or act in a manner harming state and human dignity." be seriously dealt with;" deal

statement warned.

adon collapse and other foodsta

Worl

SEOUL (R) - South K. Finday warned the Comm ist North its plan to cu Polish contingent from 3 t mational Fody police Korea's cold war box could have dire diplor

consequences. Assistant Foreign Min Lee Jae-Chun told repo North Korea's threat to miss 2 Polish mission the Neutral Nations Su visor, Commission (N) could push Pyongyang fi er into international i "At a time when the

no new peace treaty, the ited States have though taking stern measures 29 North Korea. We will iake stern measures ag North Korea after close sultations with other N nations." Mr. Lee said He was speaking after with U.S. Assistant Sect of State Winston Lor Secul for discussions of ing relations with Sta Pynngyang and impless non of the landmark North Korean nuclear struck last October.

Burma p

BANGKOK (R) -- But government forces will launch a major offe against Burma's opium lord Khun Sa and his g la army, the Thai m said Friday.

That regional army mander Colonel Ch Netrpae told a news of ence Thai forces had monitoring a build up of mese troops and sa attack on Khun Sa's gholds in northeasters ma's Shan state was

Khun Sa commands equipped guerrilia fo 8.000 men and control areas of the Burmese: of the Golden Tr Opium-growing region The Golden Tri where Laos, Burm Thailand meet, is one world's main region growing opium poppy.
The 60-year-old reb mander has been indi-

a U.S. court on drug t ing charges and is re Prelimin

PALERMO. Italy (A' A hearing on whether Prime Minister (Andreotti, who don Italian politics for 50 should be tried on cha collusion with the Ma adjourned Friday to M one of his attorneys Guiseppe Alessi to corters that invest Judge Agostino Grist heard a defence plea the case transferred to cial court in Rome so

Claes cli BRUSSELS (AFP) — Claes's future as see general of NATO hun

balance Friday as the from a 1988 bribery left him under intens ure to resign. Dutch Foreign N Hans Van Mierlo broofficial silence on the late Wednesday when nowledged that the leader was in a "vu

position." NATO diplomats day ruled out a move Mr. Claes to resign fo his confession that been aware of an att Italian helicopter murer Agusta to but Flemish Socialist (SI to win a \$225-million from the Belgian ar

markedly, from bree: dence that Mr. Cl done nothing wrong

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S. Korea warns North to keep Poles at border

Friday warned the Communist North its plan to oust a Polish contingent from a multinational hody policing Korea's cold war border could have dire diplomatic

Assistant Foreign Minister Lee Jae-Chun told reporters North Korea's threat to dismiss a Polish mission from the Nentral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) could push Pyongyang further into international isola-

"At a time when there is no new peace treaty, the United States have thoughts of taking stern measures against North Korea. We will also take stern measures against North Korea after close con-sultations with other NNSC nations," Mr. Lee said.

He was speaking after talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, in Seoul for discussions on easing relations with Stalinist Pyoogyang and implementation of the landmark U.S.-North Korean nuclear pact struck last October.

six-man Polish delegation two weeks ago that food, water and electricity to their camp, just north of the inter-Korean border near the truce village of Panmunjom, would be cut off at the end of February.

ad other foodstuffs stacked in a coach coming from

ca, a Sarajevo suburb. Residents are bringing in

A Swedish NNSC delegation member told Reuters the Poles had been confined to their camp for two weeks and were expecting to be thrown out next Tuesday.

We have not seen them since Feh. 9, which is the last time they were allowed to patrol inside the joint security area at Panmuniom. It is almost as if they are being held prisoner at their camp,"

He said the Poles were in regular walkie-talkie cootact with the Swedish/Swiss NNSC camp south of the border and say they are fit and well.

They say they can stay until next Tuesday, after that we don't know what will happen," the Swedish official said.

Warsaw's Foreign Ministry said Thursday Poland would not withdraw from the NNSC even if they had to quit the camp. .

land and the airport area (AFP photo)

"Evacuation is one possihle scenario. It does not mean Poland withdrawing from the Supervisory Commission but we cannot risk any threat to our personnel." ministry official Jerzy Pomianowski said.

North Korea's move against the Poles is its latest effort to dismantle the intricate armistice process that has kept an nneasy truce in Korea for more than 40

In 1933, it refused to allow a delegation from the Czech Republic to take over border duties from Czechoslovakia, Since then the Swedes, the Swiss and the Poles have maintained the NNSC pre-

Under the armistice, North Korea itself had selected then-Communist Poland and Czechoslovakia for NNSC duties. The U.S. led United Nations side close Switzerdrew from the Military Armistice Con mission, the main body overseeing the truce, and persuaded war-time ally China to do like-

Last yer, Pyongyang with-

ened U.N.-controlled Blue Routes through the no man's

North Korea, describing the armistice as a "useless piece of paper," proposed talks with the United States to replace the pact with a full-scale peace treaty.

The South says any peace treaty should be discussed hetween the two Koreas alone, as agreed in a 1991 non-aggression pact.
The Seoul Foreign Minis-

try said it supported a joint statement issued by the three remaining NNSC countries on Thursday demanding the removal of threats by North

'We urge the North Korean side to observe the present armistice and sincerely implement its duty as a member of the international community by immediately withdrawing threats unilaterally applied on the Polish delegation," it said.

Burma prepares to attack rebel opium king

BANGKOK (R) -- Burmese condemned by Thai and U.S. government forces will soon launch a major offensive against Burma's opium warlord Khun Sa and his guerril-

said Friday. Thai regional army commaoder Colonel Charoen Netroae told a news conference Thai forces had been monitoring a build up of Burmese troops and said an attack on Khun Sa's strongholds in northeastern Burma's Shan state was immi-

Khun Sa commands a wellequipped guerrilla force of 8.000 men and controls large areas of the Burmese section of the Golden Triangle opium-growing region.

The Golden Triangle, where Laos, Burma and Thailand meet, is one of the world's main regions for growing opinm poppys.

The 60-year-old rebel commander has been indicted by a U.S. court on drug traffick-

ing charges and is regularly

narcotics officials as one of the world's leading drug run-

Khun Sa and his Mong Tai army guerrilla force, saying he is a drug trafficking ban-

and only taxes opium traders control.

guerrilla stronghold of Kawmoora earlier this week. Karen gnerrillas com-

plained that Burmese forces

Bnrma's military govern-

But Khun Sa says he is a Shan nationalist fighting the Burmese government for the independence of Shan state passing through his zone of

Burmese forces launched a large-scale attack on Khun Sa in late 1993 and inconclusive fighting continued until the rainy season set in last June. Meanwhile, another Thai army commander said there was no evidence Burmese government forces used chemical weapons in their successful assault on the Karen

fired shells containing a debilitating gas in their final assault oo the rebel hase. But Colonel Dire Yearnn-

> garmrich, commander of a Border Task Force, told the news conference that after investigating the allegations he had been unable to find any evidence of a chemical attack.

Col. Direk rejected Burmese government claims that Kawmoora and the Karen's former headquarters at Manerplaw, which fell on Jan. 27, were captured by a Karen rebel splioter faction that broke away from the main guerrilla group in December.

The Thai commander said it was Burmese army units who attached, captured and occupied the two guerrilla

The Burmese justa is still willing to welcome insurgent groups into the legal fold for the sake of peace and development, official newspapers Friday quoted Senior General Than Shwe as

Thisteeo ethnic rebel groups had already signed ceasefire agreements with the government, and "as far as the remaining groups are concerned, our position is

that as long as they prove sincere, we are always willing and ready to welcome them. Than Shwe, speaking to graduates of the Institute of National Races Thursday,

and plans to forge new relaapparently made no direct tionships between Dohlin reference to the Kareo and the North. National Union (KNU'), whose last border stronghold tant Unionists have already was overrun by junta troops voiced their disapproval of the three-part framework document. They fear Dub-

Within the next five to 10 years, he predicted, "the gap between the central and border regions will have narrowed down considerably The New Light of Myan-

Protestant politicians. mar reported Friday that angered by what they see as a more than 8,210 people had sell-out by the British governreturned to Burma from rement, Thursday began two fugee camps in Thailand days of talks on how to react since fighting stopped in most to the plan for the province. of the Karen state. "The important thing now is the question of political

Preliminary hearing in Andreotti case adjourned

PALERMO, Italy (AFP) -A hearing on whether former Prime Minister Ginlio Andreotti, who dominated Italian politics for 50 years. should be tried on charges of collusion with the Mafia was adjourned Friday to March 2. one of his attorneys said.

Guiseppe Alessi told reporters that investigative Judge Agostino Gristina had heard a defence plea to have the case transferred to a special court in Rome set up to

try members or former members of the government.

Four previous heariogs on the Andreotti case have been adjourned at the request of the defence attorneys who wanted more time to prepare their case because of new charges being filed against 76-year-old client.

Judicial sources earlier hinted that Friday's hearing would also be adjourned by Judge Gristina because of new charges filed Thursday

against Mr. Andreotti by the Palermo prosecutor's office. It was unclear what the new charges were.

Mr. Andreotti, a Christian Democratic senator for life and seven times former premier, did not attend Friday's hearing, which was held behind closed doors.

According to the more than 90,000-page complaint with Mafia boss Toto Riina in

the aim of securing Mafiacontrolled votes in Sicily during his reign within the Christian Democratic Party. He is also suspected of ordering the 1979 assassination of journalist Mino

Pecorelli, who was about to publish a book that threatened to embrrass him. The charges against Mr. Andreotti are based ou testimony from 15 Mafia turncoars who cooperated with

authorities. Claes clinging on to NATO chair by a thread

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Willy Claes's future as secretarygeneral of NATO hung in the balance Friday as the fallout from a 1988 hribery scandal left him under intense pressure to resign.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo broke the official silence on the issue late Wednesday when he acknowledged that the NATO leader was in a "vulnerable position."

NATO diplomats Thursday ruled out a move to force Mr. Claes to resign following his coofession that he had been aware of an attempt hy Italian belicopter manufacturer Agusta to bribe his Flemish Socialist (SP) Party to win a \$225-million contract from the Belgian army at a time when his position has been considerably weakened.

Their tone has shifted markedly, from breezy confideoce that Mr. Claes had done nothing wrong to concern about the implications of a forced resignation on the alliance at a crucial point in its evolution.

"NATO simply caunot afford another period with an empty chair where we should have a secretary-general," one diplomat said. NATO was without a leader for much of 1994 as Mr. Claes' predecessor, Manfred Woerner, battled terminal cancer and the allies squabhled over

the choice of successor. If Mr. Claes stepped down. even temporarily to clear his name, it would be deeply damaging to an alliance which is currently embroiled in the delicate processes of rebuilding a fractured relationship with Russia and forging a new security strategy for the Meditteranen

The Belgian press continued to campaign for the country's leading internation-

al figure to resign in a scandal they have predictably dnhbed "Willygate."

In their view, Mr. Claes' position became untenable Wednesday when he first denied then acknowledged being told of the Agusta approach only weeks after the group won the contract to supply 56 helicopters.

By lying (badly, which is

quite an achievement for a diplomat) Mr. Claes has covered himself in ridicule," La Demiere Heure commented.

"What Claes has said publicty is not 100 per cent compatible with what he told us earlier io the week, but it is not enough to hang him with," a NATO diplomat responded.

Three former SP officials and an Agusta representative have been charged in connection with the affair.

Etienne Mange, the party's former treasurer and head of

the Belgian post office, has testified he told Mr. Claes, then-Belgian Foreign Minis-ter Frank Vandenbroucke and Louis Tobback, the interior minister, of the Augusta approach at the time.

The investigating judge in the case wants to talk to them all and the Belgian cabinet was expected Friday to discuss lifting Mr. Vandenbroucke and Mr. Tobback's parliamentary immunity.

As a Belgian citizen, Mr. Claes has no immunity in coonection with the affair and could be called to face questioning at any time. The affair is certain to cast a cloud over a series of high-

profile contacts Mr. Claes has

scheduled for next week. On Monday he is due to meet U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Wednesday he flies to Washington for talks with Prersident Bill Clinton and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

to Mr. Milosovic. The contact group United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain

Balkans conflict to help avert fresh fighting. Mr. Akashi's visit to Belgrade followed talks Thursday between Mr. Milosevic and representatives of the

contact group of big powers. Peace brokers have offered to ease sanctions on Serbiandominated rump Yngoslavia if Belgrade recognises Croatia and Bosnia, where it has hacked separatist Serbs since the break up of the old Yngoslay Federation in 1991-

week of secretive efforts to

persuade a key player in the

Mr. Milosevic told Russian envoy Andrei Kozyrev at the weekend that the sanctions must be lifted first.

Few details emerged either from Mr. Akashi's talks or from those the previous day with envoys from Britain. France and Germany. The independent BETA

news agency said the European envoys left with "mixed feelings." It quoted sources

irish

urges

province.

ference..

president

listening to

TOKYO (R) — Irish President Mary Robinson urged the British and Irish govern-

ments Friday to pay attention to fears voiced by Northern

Ireland's Protestant Union-

ists over a peace plan for the

"It is true that there has

beeo criticism and sharp reac-

tioo to the framework docu-

ment," the Irish president

partitioned 70 years ago.

lin's involvement will hasteo

the end of their British status

and lead to the reunification

discussion and not political

violence," Mrs. Robinson

"This is a time of singular

hope and opportunity for the

people of the island of Ire-

land with the achievement of

Gerry Adams, president of

the Sinn Fein, political wing of the Irish Republican Army

(IRA), said Friday he was

convinced the "British disen-

gagement" from Northern

Ireland was in its final phase,

and that he would see a un-

ited Ireland in his lifetime

In an interview here with

the AFP on the eve of Sinn

Fein's annual conference in

Dublin, Mr. Adams, 46, said

the Republican nationalist

movement he heads was to-

day no longer at war with

"The British," he said.

"are still the enemy. But

we're engaging now with the

ecemy io order to make

friends with them, which is a

Mr. Adams said he did not

foresee a need for Sinn Fein

to resell the peace process to

"When I went to them

before Aug. 31 (wheo the

ceasefire was declared) it was

because the IRA was seeking

an assessment, it took that his-

"There has been no reason

to go back... The IRA can

read the situation as well as

Mr. Adams would not be

drawn on whether IRA

weapons would ever be sur-

rendered, even without a re-

sumption of violence.

toric decision," he said.

different project entirely."

Britain.

the IRA.

yon or L"

peace," she added.

of Ireland.

Unionists

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi as saying it was "quite cer-tain" that a complete lifting met Serbian President Sloboof sanctions was not offered dan Milosevic Friday after a

fears a new war could break out in Croatia and Bosnia, drawing in Serbian-led rump Yugoslavia.

Two worrisome deadlines are approaching. A ceasefire has since Jan. 1 subdued fighting in Bosnia between the Muslim-led government and the rebel Serbs but it is due to expire on April 30. In Croatia, the Zagreb

government has ordered U.N. peacekeepers to leave when their mandate expires on March 31, saying their presence has allowed Croatian Serbs to consolidate their breakaway Krajina region. The urgency to achieve a

diplomatic breakthrough is clearer than ever," said a French Foreign Mioistry spokesman.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic said the question of recognition of

Bosnia and Croatia was possible "only after all outstanding issues concerning the position of Serbs in these two former Yugoslav republics are resolved."

Akashi meets Milosevic, pushes

Mr. Jovanovic, in an interview published by the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, also warned Zagreb that Belgrade was against a new Serb-Croat war but would not discount the possibility of step-ping in to help fellow Serbs if

On the ground, the U.N. reported an increase in firing incidents overnight on several battlefronts across northceotral Bosoia, extending from Doboj to the eastern enclave of Srebrenica.

Clashes also continued in the northwestern Bihac enclave, where Muslim rebels backed by Bosnian and Croatian Serbs are fighting the government army.

U.N. officials say the incidents are at a much lower level now compared to last year before the ceasefire. But the Bihac fighting and occasional clashes elsewhere

M-class missile bases from

Jiangai province to Fujian

province, making the entire

range of Chinese missiles,'

Taiwan, arch-rival of China sioce 1949, lies 220

kilometres from Pujian pro-

vince on China's south east

coast. Jiangxi is inland and westward from Fujian.

Mr. Lin's claim of the

missile-base moves could not

be independently confirmed. "Although this is only the

typical donble-handed

strategy of peace and war at

the same time, we cannot

Mr. Lin said.

Taiwan area within the target:

campaign for Balkan peace tal te place against a stalemate proparations for more war, such as trench digging and traint, cg.

In Sarajevo, U.N. officials expressed concern that Bos-Serbs may be reconsider ing the agreement which has allowed the opening of two goads across the airport to civilian traffic - one of the few provisions of the ceasefire accord which the warring

sides have carried out. The Bosnian Serbs, who have laid siege to Sarajevo since the war began in April 1992, were arguing civilians were using the roads to carry back large quantities of goods from the government-held suburb of Hrasnica.

"The airport routes remained open but the current. arrangements are coming under scrutiny by the BSA. They are concerned by the increasing amount of commercial goods that are being carried in the buss and cars," U.N. spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward said.

Taiwan chief of staff: China threat grows

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's military chief said Friday rival China was building up its forces while talking peace, posing a growing threat to Taiwan and to disputed territories in the South China Sea.

Chief of General Staff Linn Ho-Chien said in a speech China had moved missiles bases to a province near Taiwan early this year at a time when Chinese President Jiang Zemin was making conciliatory, remarks toward

"During the release of Jiang's 'eight points,' the Chinese Communists moved two missile contingents and relax and must respond with

"What is important now is that there be ability to listen to the fears, take seriously the sense of apprehension of the Ucionists fear that they may lose their identity," she told a Tokyo news con-Oo Wednesday, Britain

and Ireland announced an initiative to forge new rela-General, Cesar Gaviria. dominated Northern Ireland and the Roman Catholic Irish Republic from which it was the Angio-Irish document

ontlined proposals for a Northern Ireland Assembly Ecuador. Northern Ireland's Protes-

> economic sanctions." Ecuador called the urgent OAS meeting to discuss the violation of the latest cease-

Ecuador's joint chiefs of staff in Quito said Peru had launched a major offensive that had raised the Ecuadorean death toll in the monthlong border conflict from 12 to 25 and the oumber of injured from 53 to 62.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry also formally notified Lima observer mission to the border scheduled for March 1

There exists a clear violalian General Ariel Percyra De Fonseca said in Lima as an advance team of monitors prepared to visit several border points on the Peruvian

the team would visit both sides of the border on March

Chile and the United States, guarantors of the 1942 Protocol of Rio de Janeiro which set the border between the

and specialists at a university. Gen. Liu added that China had performed military exercises near Taiwan during 1994, which judging by their content and focus, were concentrating on attacking Taiwan'a ruling Nationalist

extra vigilance," sGen. Liu

told an audience of officials

Party lost a civil war on the mainland in 1949. China has not ruled out using force to regain Taiwan, which it regards as a renegade province. Most military spending in Taiwan goes on defences against China

OAS chief wields sanctions threat to end Ecuador-Peru border conflict

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Ecuador and Peru could face strong measures, if their and Quito that a four-nation month-long border war does not end immediately, warned Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary

watch Ecuador and Peru accuse each other and the worsening of the conflict," Mr. Gaviria told a special meeting of the OAS Permanent Council convened late Thursdy at the request of

Mr. Gaviria warned that unless the fighting stopped at once, he would request the council to launch "the instruments and mechanisms of the OAS, including the possibility of a clear and firm arms embargo and the threat of

fire agreement signed in Bra-silia and Feb. 17.

was cancelled because of the ongoing fighting.

side of the frontier. "But I hope that the peace agreement will be firmly consolidated in the upcoming days," he said, adding that

Under the Feb. 17 ceasefire, Peru and Ecuador agreed to allow international observers to the boder, create a demilitarised zone and negotiate a final settlement in line with a 1942 peace treaty. The agreement was brokered by Argentina, Brazil.

-constant friction. Ecuador said the latest_ Peruvian offensive was bentred on the key Ecuadoreanheld outpost of Tiwinza, which both sides have been battling to control since fight-

ing began on Jan. 26. Mr. Gayına s my judgement the situation between Ecuador and Peru continues to deteriorate I would be forced to not only . bring the subject before the Council, but to propose specific measures to strengthen the role of the guarantor countries."

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The OAS charter allows the organisation to propose. sanctions, but leaves the decision to apply them up to the individual member countries.

During the three-honr meeting at OAS headquar-ters in Washington, Chile's OAS Ambassador Edmundo Vargas Carreno proposed that the foreign ministers of Peru, Ecuador and the four guarantors of the Rio Protocol meet Tuesday in Mon-

tevideo. The proposal was accepted in principle by Peru and Ecuador, but needs to be studied by Argentina, Brazil and the United States, diplomats said.

Rao again under attack from party rebels

two countries but failed to

mark a 78-kilometre (48-

mile) stretch of jungle along

the Andes' Condor range that has been the source of

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is under renewed attack from within his Congress (I) Party as it faces a possible wash-out in makeor-break state elections, par-

ty sources said.

an early party forum to discuss ways to arrest the waning influence of the 109-year-old Congress, which political analysts warn faces a bleak future. Congress sources said a quiet signature campaign was

Dissidents are pressing for

on to make Mr. Rao, who is also the party president, con-vene a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC), which groups some 1,000 party leaders across the country. Simultaneously, a group of

young MPs who have come to be known as the "Young Turks" want the party to slow down the free-market economic reforms begun by Mr. Rao in July 1991 after becoming prime minister.
"It is becoming very clear that our party's support among the poor and Muslims

is falling rapidly," said Aslam. Sher Khan, a Muslim MP and one of the "Young Turks." "The Congress is begin-ning to lose its traditional identity," he told AFP. "We are naturally concerned. We want to know how we can

the Congress fold with digni-

Rajesh Pilot, a junior minister and another "Young Turk," shocked the party last week hy warning publicly that India would go the Mex-ico way if it blindly pursued its economic reforms.

Mr. Rao, 73, has been

under pressure since the Congress was routed in elections in two southern states in December. He expelled his main rival, Arjun Singh, from the Congress on Feb. 7 in a move aimed at ending the rebellion.

Bot Ariun Singh, who was the de facto number two in the government until he quitthe cabinet in December, has refused to abandon the fight and has pursued a subtle campaign aimed at under-mining Mr. Rao's leadership. And Congress dissidents, after lying low for a while following Arjun Singh's sack-

ing, have resumed their veiled attacks on Mr. Rao. Congress sources said this was bad news for the prime minister, coming in the mid-dle of staggered polls in six Indian states. Analysis have warned that a Congress rout in the February-March ballot

could spell disaster for Mr. R20. Mr. Khan, a former Indian hockey star who took to politics after the 1980 Moscow bring back these groups into Olympics, is a known supporter of Arjun Singh. Both are

from Madhya Pradesh, India's largest state. "An AICC meeting is very necessary," Mr. Khan said, adding that he had called a meeting of some 1,100 party leaders, including 350 MPs, at his bome on March 13 which could well turn into a de facto AICC gathering.

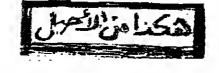
Mr. Khan refused to directly criticise Mr. Rao, but took potshots at the premier. "We have to identify the forces which are responsible for the weakening of the Congress," he said. "Unfortunately, we don't have leaders of the stature of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi

today." Opinioo polls have pre-dicted a defeat for the Congress in the western state of Maharashtra, which went to the polls on Feb. 9 and 12, and adjoining Gujrat, where

elections will conclude Satur-It also faces a tough fight in the eastern states of Bihar and Orissa, where polling is

due next month. Mr. Khan said Congress would be in serious trouble if it lost the four states. "We were drubbed in the

north in November 1993 and we lost the south in December (last year)," he said. "If we lose in the west and east also, what is the party left



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Old forum for new problem

IF THE U.N. Security Council is not the appropriate place to deal with the everincreasing Israeli settlement plans in the occupied Palestimian territories, as the Arab group at the U.N. headquarters in New York is now demanding, we don't know what is. The Israelis and their supporters are lobbying against convening the council for this purpose on the pretext that the ongoing peace talks between them and the Palestinians are better suited to discuss this crisis than the U.N. itself.

Normally we would agree that the bilateral peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would offer the right forum for resolving the serious dispute over settlements. But given the fact that these talks are practically at a standstill and have proven to be unproductive in stopping the continued Israeli colonisation of Palestinian lands, the international community and the immediate parties are left with no other option but to air out their differences before the principal international organ dealing with all threats to international peace and security. This does not mean that convening the council would automatically offer an immediate remedy to the dispute. Given the polarisation that still plagues the council on Arab-Israeli disputes, there is little donbt that its permanent members would not see eye-to-eye on the urgent need to do something effective in the direction of halting the perpetual Israeli designs to create new and seemingly irreversible realities in the area.

The Arab group in New York should do some real homework before calling on the Security Council to hold a meeting on this most troubling issue. Unless Washington is successfully won in favour of an international however, there can be little hope for obtaining a meaningful resolution. Holding a council meeting that does not produce forceful action is worse than not having the meeting

The U.S. and its permanent allies on the council need to be convinced that whereas old and existing Israeli settlements could be the sole concern of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, new ones come easily within the purview of the U.N. and its principal bodies as additional and new developments that threaten regional peace and security. Surely the U.S. would not want to be seen as spineless on the issue that could torpedo the entire peace package between Israel and the

The successful convening of the council would present the U.S. and others with vet another rare opportunity to speak out and speak out forcefully on this grave obstacle to peace in the region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Friday elaborated on His Majesty King Hussem's statements to a visiting delegation from the American-Jewish Congress by stressing that the Kingdom will not suffice itself with its peace treaty with Israel but will pursue all efforts to achieve comprehensive peace on all tracks. The daily said that peace based on U.N. resolutions and in line with the aspirations of the Madrid conference is all that Jordan seeks to achieve. The paper echoed the King's words that Jordan was totally committed to peace based on justice and said that the peace treaty with Israel did not constitute a unilateral move because all the other Arab parties had sought to achieve Israeli withdrawal from Arab land in exchange for peace and in line with the aspirations of the Madrid conference. The achievements so far accomplished as a result of the peace treaty came as a result of Jordan's firm and principled stand and to fulfil the aspirations of the Jordanian people who have regained sovereignty over their land and water resources, said the paper. It said that Jordan has set a good example for the other Arab countries involved in the peace process and reaffirmed the Arab national rights by word and deed.

A WRITER in Al Dustour urged the government to bring about meaningful change in its information policies, especially in handling news and events at the local and regional levels. Mohammad Daoud said that what the country requires is a real improvement in its information services in terms of reporting events and the way the news is presented to the listeners and the readers. He said that news and other programmes on radio and television are tedious and boring. He said the Information Ministry ought to provide constant training for its staff and enlist the help of experts to bring about the required change for the better. He said that Jordan ought to follow in the footsteps of the advanced nations, which have constantly developed their information services to better serve the public and meet the challenges of the modern age.

Jordnaian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jordan has to rise to the economic challenge

WE ARE into the seventh year of our economic restructuring programme and the fifth month after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. Both are of key utmost significance to every Jordanian who seeks to improve his/her own standard of living as part of the national moves towards increased self-reliance in an atmosphere of security. stability and peace.

The economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and supported by the World Bank has made major advances in addressing some of our major problems and we are almost there in terms of regaining our country's international credit rating that we enjoyed before the economic crisis of 1988-89. The most difficult parts of the programme have heen successfully implemented (although not without drawing the usual controversy that is attached to implementing any economic

Indeed, it is often said that Jordan, in terms of government adherence to the stipulations of the programme, stands out as an example for many Third World countries which have similar problems as the Kingdom had. So, we do have an international reputation.

The peace treaty that we signed with Israel in October was indeed the most important event in the life of Jordanians, perhaps more so in the case of generations born in the 30s and 40s who have had firsthand experience with the torment of the days of the 1948 war and what ensued thereafter.

Now that the decades of hostilities, instability, uncertainty and sense of insecurity are behind us afte the signing of the peace treaty, it is only logical for Jordanians to expect reap the benefits of peace in terms of economic dividends, particularly given that the local economic and monetary scene has undergone dramatic changes since 1989. But the perceptions of those dividends differ among

For many, it meant the wishful thinking of the international community pumping billions of dollars into the Jordanian economy. And that is where the disappointment has come, five months after the signing of the treaty.

The affirmations by our leaders. His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and others, that the fruits of peace would not materialise overnight are clearly aimed at the segment of the population which expected cost of living to go down, the government to provide increased services and employment opportunities to materialise at every turn in the few weeks after the signing of the peace treaty. Indeed this segment is

But then what we have to realise is that it is largely dependent on us and our behaviour at a level that determines whether our dreams could be realised.

A closer look at our economic situation and the parameters that guide any improvement in the economy of any country would clearly indicate a few realities:

- We have come a long way from the crises of 1988-89. but are not yet fully there in terms of achieving the foll objectives of the restructuring programme; i.e. a zero-deficit budget in all that it entails; an economic growth of around 10 per cent based on national production and exports, and unemployment at manageable levels (say around three to five per cent). These goals could be met in another couple of years if firm determination accompanies every step of our way.

Of course, the way Jordan recovered itself from one of

the most difficult crises ever to hit a country with similar features was spectacular. And it is appreciated by the international community and the donor nations.

That is a plus point in our favour, and a big plus at that.

— Parallel to the economic programme, if we compare the improvements in our investment climate, the reality is something else.

For many of us, the sacrifices that we bad to make in order to ensure the success of the economic restructuring programme were high and those in themselves should have gone a long way in making our country attractive to foreign

That perception is mistake number one. What we did in the past four/five years was simply to raise the performance of our economy from a totally unacceptable level to somewhere near acceptable levels, and we have to go much further in this direction.

Considering that the definition of an investment climate conducive to investment, both local and foreign, starts somewhere far above an acceptable level of economic performance, it is clear that Jordan cannot yet boast itself of offering such a climate.

There are many factors that influence an investor and many of those deal with legislation, incentives, quality of life etc. But beyond them, the necessity factor is adminis-

There has been a marked lethargy on the part of the middle-level hureaucracy to adapt itself to the requirements of the day. What we see today in our government offices and departments is not much different from what we saw in the 80s, mostly in terms of the same inefficiency stemming from a lack of commitment and devotion to Quite simply, it seems that the vision of the inevitable

sweeping changes that we have to undertake in our approach any way of thinking and method of working is limited to our leadership. Only a few of our bureuacrats, long used to an air of dispensing favours from in their traditional chairs while doing what they are being paid for, appreciate or realise the importance of those changes to our life at every level.

How do we go about changing this attitude? Can we afford to have a potential investor come to us with all sincere intentions only to be spooked away if only because of the bureaucratic monster that faces him in our offices?

That is the biggest challenge facing us, and the battle, since it involves a way of behaviour developed over decades, could be as tough as the battle for peace. But it is a battle that has to be fought and heads have to roll if the battle has to be won.

M. KAHIL RABIN'S POPULARITY

Arafat is serving Palestinian cause by staying in Gaza

THE WEEK IN PRINT

By Elia Nasrallah

THE DEADLOCK in the Israeli-Palestinian talks on the implementation of the Oslo agreement, the situation in the Middle East in the light of Israel's intransigent position and a host of domestic affairs featured prominently in the editorial and the columnists' writings in the local press last week.

A writer in Al Ra'i daily

supported a decision by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to keep the Palestinian leadership inside the Palestinian lands rather than moving its headquarters back to Tunis. Tareq Masarweh said that the presence of the Palestinian leadership on Palestinian soil has its own benefits for the Palestinian people and the leadership itself because it will be close to the scene of events and closer to the Israeli leaders for continued efforts to find a solution to the deadlock in the Palestinian Israeli negotiations. The writer said that the former Palestinian leader Amin Husseini, who led the struggle in 1948, should have remained steadfast on Palestinian soil rather than seek refuge in Arah states as he could achieved a bette stand for the Palestinians and could have negotiated with the Israeli rulers a peaceful settlement.

He said the Palestinian leadership ought to remain steadfast and try by all means to reach a solution with the Israelis.

Despite the obstacles laid by the Israelis in the path of a settlement, the Palestinian leadership has chosen the right path by remaining steadfast in its effort to force the Israelis to implement the Oslo and Cairo agreements, said Sultan Ai Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'i

Mr. Arafat's adherence to the peace process, his decision to keep the lead-

ership on Palestinian soil and his determination to launch a world-wide campaign to force the Israelis to comply with U.N. resolutions and the Oslo and Cairo deals were wise and brave, said the writer. Having realised that the peace process could not achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people through inter-Arah efforts, Mr. Arafat bas rightly decided to cling hard to the peace deals with Israel and gather support for his legitimate stand at the international

level, said the writer. Ibrahim Al Absi, another writer in Al Ra'i, beld a different view. He said that now that the Palestinians have proven that the Israelis are not willing to abide hy the Oslo agree-ment, they ought to freeze all negotiations with the Jewish state until further

It has become clear, he

said, that Israel does not

want to redeploy its forces

in Palestinian lands, refuses

to arrange for Palestinian

elections and continues its

Jewish settlement program-

me. These stands. he

added, are sufficient proof

that the Israelis are not

working to achieve perma-

Addressing the differences within the Palestinian

leadership, Taher Al

Adwan, a writer in Al Dus-

tour, said that Mr. Arafat

did well in turning down

calls by Palestinians to re-

turn to Tunis because such

a step would mean he was

abandoning his people.

Mr. Arafat would have

lost credibility as a leader of his nation had he chosen to

abandon the land of Pales-

tion over Israel's intransi-

gence, said the writer. He

said that Mr. Arafat should

not return to exile in Tunis

tine because of his frustra-

nent peace.

awaiting a miracle to happen but must continue the endeavours on all fronts and should remain in Gaza, which is part of the land of Palestine. While Mr. Arafat con-

tinues to struggle against Israel and seeks a way out of the deadlock, in his talks with Israel, some Palestinian voices are demanding that he return to Tunis. according to Issa Soueibi in Al Dustour. But, said the writer, Mr. Arafat bas taken the right decision and decided to expose Israel's intransigence to the world and to the peace groups inside the Israeli society. Resorting to exile in Tunis and abandoning the Palestinian people under occupa-tion would bave achieved nothing for Mr. Arafat and for his people alike, said the

George Haddad, a writer in Al Dustour, said that

Israel is refusing to imple-

ment its deals with the

Palestinians in the hope

that more differences

among the Palestinians

would be created as a result

of frustration. The writer

said that the Rabin govern-

ment is hoping that Mr.

Arafat would crack down

on the opposition groups, like Hamas, thus leading the

Palestinians to a civil strife

which would please the

Israeli government. To

make matters difficult for

Mr. Arafat, the Israelis are

holding on to their own

hardline positions and re-

fusing to implement the

agreements with the

Palestinians, thus encourag-

ing the opposition to de-

nounce Mr. Arafat and the

Palestine National Author-

ity (PNA) — a move that could lead to civil strife,

Defending the Jordan-

Israel peace treaty, Fahd Al

Fanek a writer in Al Ra'i

according to the writer.

reminded the Arabs of the historical events since the start of the Jewish presence in Palestine. The writer said that the Arabs rejected the Balfour Declaration earlier this century and so they paved ground for the Western powers to establish a Jewish entity in Palestine. In 1947, the Arabs refused the partition of Palestine and in 1967 Jordan refused to regain the West Bank through peace and a settle-ment with Israel and the result was catastrophic for the Arabs, said the writer. He said had Jordan refused to reach a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, future generations would bave said that Jordan was wrong and should have accepted the deal then.

Mobammad Qudah, a

writer in Al Ra'i, said that the Arab masses wonder whether Israel is turly oriented towards peace with the Arabs in light of its behaviour towards the Palestinians in the occupied lands and its insistence to hold on to mass destruction weapons. The writer said that the Israelis do not want to respect their treaties and agreements with the Palestinians and the Arabs at large and continue to hold on to their policies and are intent on imposing capitnlation on the Arabs through intimidation. The writer said that no genuine peace can be achieved unless the Israelis change their position and respond to the requirements of a lasting settlement.

A writer in Al Dustour lauded the government's decision to sell most of its shares in the Jordanian Hotels and Tourist Rest houses Comapny to the public as a step in the right direction. Mohammad Daoud said that by taking this step the government has invited investors to increase their activities and boost the private sector's

NATO's offer on **Mediterranean raises** ripple of excitement

By Frederick Bonnart

BRUSSELS - NATO's recent offer of a direct dialogue with five countries south of the Mediterranean raised a ripple of excitement and a number of questions. Was an extension to the south envisaged to complement that to the easy? Would the organisation take a hand in the faltering Middle East peace process? Did it intend to become to be far reaching. The involved in violent con- alliance will be understood frontation in North Africa? to be aligning itself with one Was it only trying to find another role to justify its existence?

Allied diplomats say the initiative was intended merely to achieve better mutual understanding, inform Mediterranean gov-ernments about NATO's peacekeeping potential, and demonstrate its interest in security in an unstable region. Extension of this dialogne to other Mediterranean countries was envisaged for the future. It was in keeping with alliance concerns to strength regional stability mentioned at the June and December 1994 foreign ministers' meetings. And action had been urged by French Defence Minister François Léotard at the informed meeting of defence ministers in Seville in September. This is no doubt true as

far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. The nub is in, what has been left unsaid.

The approach was made to Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Israel: The two countries on the Mediterranean's southern shores omitted from it are Algeria and Libya. NATO's southern mem-

bers, in particular France, Italy and Spain, are under increasing economie and demographic pressure from across the water. They worry about infilitration of terrorists and about the dangers of the large numbers of their nationals who live in those countries. NATO points out that

initial contacts are merelyat ambassador level in Brussels, and that no further significance should be read into them. But a move such as this is highly political. So it is necessary to be clear about its aim, and to assess consequences. The approach will be

judged in the light of statements about the dangers of international terrorism on the one hand and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction on the other. NATO's secretary general, Willy Claes, has called fundamentalism the greatest present threat. In a recent speech he pointed ont NATO's ability to act independently of the United Nations if necessary.

The confrontation in Algeria is taking an increas-ing toll. External force may be considered essential to

rescue foreign residents there, and perhaps to safeguard the supply of gas and oil to Europe. Taken together, all this

will have an effect on governments in the countries contacted as well as on those left out, and simulatenously on the various opposition movements. whether violent or democratie. Their interpretation of the NATO move is likely

will then be expected of it. The question that NATO should ask itself is what action it is willing to undertake in support of stability in the region, and whether it is able to carry it out.

Its peacekeeping record in the Yugoslav crisis — the first and only such activity - has come under considerable criticism. NATO has correctly pointed out that this is unjust, as it did in fact carry out all that was asked of it, and its hands were tied by Umited Na-tions rulings. But the world has seen intervention as a failure to assume a role that it considers to be one of its major or functions in the post-cold war setting.

This judgment is based on a profound misunderstanding of the nature of the organisation. In the 45 years of its existence NATO has built up a highly effective multinational military mechanism with a political superstructure that can set it in motion almost unmediately. But NATO is a fully democratic organisa-tion, which can act only if all its members so decide.

The mechanism worked extremely well in the Yugoslav emergency, to the degree of action that had been agreed upon. What was lacking was the political will to go any further. The consequent loss of credibility has undermined

public support for NATO. If the alliance now intends to deal with another crisis, it should first be clear about the resources it has available for possible intervention and the will to carry it

Full prior agreement should be obtained that, if force is to be employed, members are prepared to commit it massively to ensure success. The political and economie consequences of a military success should also be envisaged.

Finally, there should be-complete clarity about the effect of another failure. It might spell the doom of the alliance.

The writer is editor of NATO's Sixteen Nation an independent milita journal published in Bill sels. This comment is a printed from the Intern tional Herald Tribune

By Alistair Lyon Reuter

ISLAMABAD - The TIS ISLAMABAD — The rist of a new Islamic student of has dealt a possible force has dealt a possible force how to a U.V. peace fatal blow to a U.V. peace fatal blow for Afghanistan, but plan for Afghanistan, but the militial known as Tales the militial force of the plan force of the pl the minute faces a tough han now faces a tough dilemma over whether to fight of negotiate.

Mahmoud Mestiri is trying Mannious a stalled plan tha envisaged that Presiden Burhanuddin Rabban would hand over power ear would name over yower ear to this week to a "mechan ism of his broadly repre-sentative Afghan political leaders.

as a failure. The said after fiving to Islamabad from Kabul on Tuesday to com sult prominent Afghans du muke part in the handous

Mr. Mestiri returned ! Kabul on Wednesday an UN officials said he would hold mother round of tark government before makin an announcement about h

Arrangements for th end of Mr Rabbam's sel extended term, now eigi weeks overdue, began t fray after the previous hille-known Taiena reached the gates of Kabi

Their heavily arme fighters, who had ouste main opposition leade Gulbuddin Hekmatya from his strongholds sour of the Afghan capital, wa pro-Rabbani fighters to a down their arms and is them enter the city u opposed.

Mr. Rabbani's forces. by famed guerrilla cor mander Ahmad Sha Masood, have responde by fortifying their position The president himself h

Jordan fully

(Continued from page bolster inter-Arab action

various domains. While welcoming Sa Arabia's efforts, the gove ment also expresses its sa faction and appreciation Saudi Arabia's endeavour ogue and negotiation.

Jordan has always ca for inter-Arab dialogue settle disputes among A countries."

The statement also pressed Jordan's hope the Saudi effort at media to settle the dispute would successful. The dispute involves

Hawar Island, which daimed by both Babrain Qatar. The island itself the reef surrounding it believed to be rich in resources. In addition, area is a rich fishing gro and a baven for pearl div Qatar offered to with

its request for a ruling or Russians hit Che

(Continued from page former Soviet Union, seincidents like Chech should not affect the picture" of support for forms in Moscow. Deputy Secretary of

Strobe Talbott argued while the Chechenya tright have damaged cow's own interests, it v be self-defeating for the ited States to reverse because of it. Musical officials sai

Friday that 1,146 service had been killed and a fr 5,000 had been wound fallen ill in the 11-week

Volkogonov, head o presidential commissio prisoners-of-war, also news conference that 27 diers were missing. The gure also included son

Diplomat do

tion of her husband and however could not be firmed by other source international news age had revealed the iden the diplomat before hi was notified in Fra Agence France identified the assaila Salem Abdullah and Casem. The two hall harak, according to so A police patrol whi in the area at the time

Afghan Islamic force stalls U.N. peace plan

By Alistair Lyon Reuter

ISLAMABAD — The rise of a new Islamic student force has dealt a possibly fatal blow to a U.N. peace plan for Afghanistan, but the militia, known as Taleban, now faces a tough dilemma over whether to fight or negotiate.

U.N. special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri is trying to rescue a stalled plan that envisaged that President Burhanuddin Rabbani would hand over power early this week to a "mechanism" of 30 broadly representative Afghan political

"I would not describe it as a failure," he said after flying to Islamabad from Kabul on Tuesday to consult prominent Afghans due to take part in the handover

Mr. Mestiri returned to Kabul on Wednesday and U.N. officials said he would hold another round of talks with the Taleban and the government before making an announcement about his

Arrangements for the end of Mr. Rabbani's selfextended term, now eight weeks overdue, began to fray after the previously little-known Taleban reached the gates of Kabul on Feb. 14.

Their heavily armed fighters, who had ousted main opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmaiyar from his strongholds south of the Afghan capital, want pro-Rabbani fighters to lay down their arms and let them enter the city un-

Mr. Rabbani's forces, led by famed guerrilla com-mander Ahmad Shah Masood, have responded by fortifying their positions. The president himself has

put off any transfer of power by insisting on changes in the U.N.-proposed mechanism, including representation for the Taleban, U.N. officials say.

"That has not suc-ceeded," a U.N. official

The Taleban, recruited initially from Afghan re-

Then they pushed through eastern Afghanistan, saying they aimed to sweep away warring Mujahideen factions. clear gunmen off roads and install an Islamic state.

with the battle-hardened forces of Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masood in Kabul, now face a stark choice, said Hamid Gul, a former Pakistani intelligence chief who funnelled aid to Mujahideen groups during the

who is not going to give up Kabul easily," Mr. Gul told Reuters in an interview.

any direct clash with Mr.

Mr. Mestiri had wanted Mr. Rabbani to make way for a representative body that would then decide on how to rebuild the country's shattered political and military institutions.

said. "The Taleban's emergence has drastically changed the Afghan

fugees at religious schools in Pakistan, captured the southern city of Kandahar in early November.

The Taleban, face to face

1979-89 Soviet occupation. "If they continue to press for their declared objectives... then inevitably they will clash with Masood,

"Masood has regular forces at his command and considerable fire-power. The Taleban so far have not experienced any worth-while resistance. So really they have had no experience in fighting, particularly with heavy weapons," he

Mr. Gul said the Taleban would suffer a setback in An Afghan Tighter of the Taliban Islamics frontline of Kabul. The U.N. peace plan for

added. On the other hand, if the Taleban accepted the U.N. peace formula, it would seem as if their sole aim had been to remove Mr. Hek-

matyar and become yet

Masood, "If there is an

uprising within Kabul in

support of Taleban, it could

be a different matter." he

another power-hungry faction. Mr. Gul said.

"This would be politically very damaging for the Tale-ban. I fear that if they go for this second option, their popularity will go down as quickly as it bas gone up," he said.

So far, Taleban leaders have refused to share power collapse of a communist government in Kabul in April, 1992. Their conditions for taking part in the U.N. process

with what they see as "cri-minal" Mujahideen factions

whose feuding has killed

25,000 Afghans since the

are that a "neutral" security force, meaning their own

militia, take over Kabul, members of the interim body be "good Muslims" and any future Afghan gov-

to have set stiff conditions for a transfer of

ernment be truly Islamic. Mr. Mestiri has vowed not to give up bis search for a solution, but U.N. officials said it was hard to reconcile the rigid demands

made by the Taleban and

the government side.
"If both sides are totally inflexible, that is where things should be laid to rest. but we are not at that stage yet," a U.N. official, who asked not to be further identified, said,

after Taliban Islamic militants were reported power (AFP photo

He agreed the Taleban faced a difficult choice between attacking Kabul, thus

setting off a new round of bloodletting, and sitting down with the faction leaders they despise.

"An all-out confrontation between the Taleban and Masood is possible, but he said. "All kinds of quiet contacts are going on between them and other groups."

crowd gathered in Tehran

The Jewish state is a

"cancerous tumor whose ex-

istence we will never accept,".

President Ali Akbar Hashe-

mi Rafsanjani told the crowd,

who were also gathered for

After the 1979 revolution,

Iran's late founder of the

Islamic republic declared the

last Friday in the fasting.

month of Ramadan as inter-

national Jerusalem Day to

express Muslim solidarity

with their fists, chanted "Death to Israel," and waved

placards in support of the

Palestinian uprising converg-ing on the university from all

Hundreds of buses un-

aded people at the site of

the demonstration, including.

soldiers, scouts and young volunteers wearing head-

bands to show their willing-

ness to be "martyrs for

Charity boxes were set up

every few metres to collect

money for the Palestinian

cause. "If your shout does not reach Palestine, your

money will," urged one

attendant through a louds-

a limited land and popula-tion, but Israel's domination

over the entire region," Mr.

tend their military, political

and economic influence

throngbont the entire Islamic-Arab World," he

said. "The Zionists are about

to realise their big dream of

expansionism from the Nile.

Persian Gulf and is discussing

oil deals and security issues.

It will take part in joint milit-

ary manoeuvres in the near

future in the region." added

the speaker, an influential

"Israel has entered the

Nateq Nuri warned.

to the Euphrates."

figure.

terms.

"What is at stake is not just

The Zionists seek to ex-

peaker.

the directions.

The crowd punched the air

with the Palestinians.

the weekly prayers.

University.

Jordan fully backs mediation

(Continued from page 1) bolster inter-Arab action in

various domains. "While welcoming Saudi Arabia's efforts, the government also expresses its satisfaction and appreciation of Saudi Arabia's endeavours to end the dispute through dialogue and negotiation.

'Jordan has always called for inter-Arab dialogue to settle disputes among Arab countries.

The statement also expressed Jordan's hope that the Saudi effort at mediation to settle the dispute would be successful

The dispute involves the Hawar Island, which is claimed by both Bahrain and Oatar. The island itself and the reef surrounding it are believed to be rich in oilresources. In addition, the area is a rich fishing ground and a haven for pearl divers. Oatar offered to withdraw

its request for a ruling on the

dispute from the international Court of Justice two weeks ago, after the court said it considered itself competent to judge the case.

The Saudi government said was willing to mediate thedispute. Bahrain welcomed the offer, but Qatar sounded sceptical over its perceptions of success of such mediation.

Since the dispute broke to the surface with a military clash in 1986, when Qatari forces seized 29 employees of a Dutch company building a Bahraini coast guard station on the Fasht Al Dibal reef, Jordan has called for Arab

mediation to settle the issue.

The company workers were released unharmed after 17 days but the dispute remained unresolved. In 1991, Qatar took the case to the International Court of Justice after saying Saudi mediation had failed to find a solution to the conflict.

Russians hit Chechens outside Grozny

(Continued from page 1) former Soviet Union, saying incidents like Chechenya should not affect the "big picture" of support for reforms in Moscow.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott argued that while the Chechenva war might have damaged Moscow's own interests, it would be self-defeating for the United States to reverse pobcy because of it.

Russian officials said on Friday that 1,146 servicemen had been killed and a further 5,000 had been wounded or fallen ill in the 11-week con-

Colonel-General Dmitry Volkogouov, head of the presidential commission on prisouers-of-war, also told a news conference that 274 soldiers were missing. This fi-gure also included some un-

identified corpses. "An officer and a soldier died overnight in Chechen

Estimates for Russian dead

"I work with the people who have the details... I have the most accurate figures, Geu. Voikogonov said. "I respect the figures the mass media has passed on to the public, but they are not al-

Diplomat doing well after attack (Continued from page 1)

the police. This account. however could not be con-

firmed by other sources. French embassy sources would only say that it was an "accident" and said they were "disappointed" that the international news agencies had revealed the identity of the diplomat before his family was notified in France.

Agence France Presse identified the assailants as Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Oasem. The two hail from Karak, according to sources.

A police patrol which was in the area at the time of the shelling. They are included in the death toll," he said.

vary wildly, with some putting the total significantly higher. The Russian human rights commission says 25,000 civilians have died in the con-

ways accurate. Gen. Volkogonov said his commission had very rough data which indicated around 1,000 Chechen rebels had died so far, but said the information had to be checked thoroughly.

tion of ber husband, and later incident immediately arrested the two, security sources said.

Mr. Hein, fluent in Arabic and English, was initially transferred to Madaba hospital and then flown by helicopter to Al Hussein Medical City where he underwent surgery to remove the bullet and treat the wound. The diplomat was expected to stay in hospital for a few

days.
"The injury is not serious," said a senior medical source at the hospital, adding that the patient was in "good con-

French-U.S. war of words

(Continued from page 1)

the French government. "That is unacceptable," be said. "What is most important is not that it has been

find out about the policy of

on at all," he said. On the question of the leak. Mr. Pasqua said Ambassador Harriman had said she could not guarantee

confidentiality. Mr. Harriman replied "that she could not do so because the services were in the know," be told Le

The U.S. embassy in Paris retorted that it had "scrupulously respected the confidentiality agreed on during Ambassador Harriman's first meeting" with Mr. Pasqua on

U.S. officials and many French commentators have suggested the leak was a hid by Mr. Pasqua's office to divert attention from a wiretap scandal threatening the political fortunes of both Mr. Pasqua and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who is running for the presidency in elections only two months away.

Mr. Pasqua's apparent outrage also sits oddly with the muted reaction to the U.S. claims two years ago to have canght French "businessmen" engaging in their own industrial espionage for

In Abidjan, the minister denied that the eruption of the spying row was a domestic issue, saying "there is no Franco-French affair."

"Personally, I am French interior minister. I am therefore in charge of French interests," he said. He criticised Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is a key supporter of Mr. Balladur's main right wing rival, Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, and who has questioned the leaking of the

spy row. The Wall Street Journal, the top U.S. business daily lambasted France for the spy row, humorously suggesting there are no French trade secrets worth stealing and accusing France of trying to

steal U.S. research. Le Monde's sources said there were 80 U.S. intelligence agents in France, the journal said, adding: "Gra-

U.S. moves to write off debts

(Continued from page 1)

"There is every seriousness on the part of the administration to see that the process goes through as orginally proposed," she said.

The sub-committee reduction of the outlay was part of cuts of \$191 million it introduced to the FY 1995 Sup-plemental as part of a Republican budget-slashing to pay for disaster aid, mostly in California, and make good on the Republican Party's promises of tax cuts.

According to Washington watchers, the Republicans, wbo now dominate the House of Representatives after a 40-year biatus, are traditionally known to be "fiscally conservative" and are seen as less sensitive to the impact of foreign aid cuts on American foreign policy than the Senate, and therefore the reduchon proposed by the subcommittee was not unex-

pected But it will be "a different story" in the Senate, accord-

ing to experts.

The Senate can relate more to foreign policy issues and the importance of aid," said an expert on internal American politics. "It is easier for the administration to deal with the Senate on foreign policy and aid issues than with the House of Representatives."

Furthermore, there is widely shared consensus that the U.S. Congress as a whole appreciates Jordan's contribution to the Middle East peace process and the difficulties facing the Kingdom in its endeavours to meet the requirements of peace after signing the Oct. 26 peace

treaty with Israel. Th net asssessment of experts is that Jordan does not really have to worry about the promised write-off of debts and that the Clinton administration would make the necessary moves in the "give-and-take" deals that cap the process of foreign appropriations between the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In the meantime, the administration has also proposed economic and military aid to Jordan worth \$44.2 million -\$31.2 million in military aid, \$7.2 million in economic support assistance and \$5.2 million in population assistance - in fiscal 1996. The proposal was contained in the draft budget for FY 1996 that the administration sent to Con-

gress last week. The amount reflects "a considerable increase" over the corresponding figure for FY 1995, noted the expert. The U.S. lawmakers have

not taken up debate on the

draft budget yet.

cious, are there really that many riches for spies to mine in France, or is the CIA just wasting money again?"

"It was our impression that the realy good stuff was to be found in Silicon Valley and other American high-tech lodes and that French snoopto gain than American snoopers in France," the newspaper editorialised.

GATT for example?" it said.

Lebanon seeks U.S. pressure (Continued from page 1) was later eased, although it 30,000 troops in the south to

was a result of diplomatic

A few dozen sailed out and returned with half-full nets. But none ventured out of Tyre or Zahrani, where the ban remained unchaged.

The blockade was imposed 16 days ago on the ancient Phoenician port of Tyre, the most southern of Lebanon's ports, and was expanded to Zahrani and Sidon Thursday.

cance and was apparently intended to put political pressure on the Lebanese government by depriving some 1,300 fishermen of their livelihood. Israel has been pressing the Beirut government to disarm

Hizbollah, which is fighting the Israelis in South Lebanon, as a precondition for cousidering a withdrawal from the region.

has pledged to deploy up to across Beirut.

last Paris air show because of French companies trying to steal their secrets.

'As for what interest there could be in gleaning France's policy positions, we're stumped. Who needed spies to determine that France would play hardball on

suicide bombing.

was not clear whether that prevent attacks.

Hizbollah heads a guerrilla war to drive the Israelis out Gunboat crew told fisher- of the border strip, known as men through londspeakers the "security zone," which that they were allowed to they have occupied since operate in waters north of the 1985 as a buffer against guer-

rilla raids. Hizbollah's parade was staged in Beirut's southern slums to mark Jerusalem Day, which Iran sponsors on the final Friday of the Holy month of Ramadan, to protest Israel's seizure of the

eastern Arab half of the city in the 1967 Middle East war. Hizboliah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, warned in It has no military signifia speech that his guerrillas would shell northern Israeli towns if Lebanese population centres in the south were bombarded from the occu-

pied zone. "That's our right and we shall exercise it at the time we choose. We shall not allow Israel to drag us into a battle of its own timing," he told

cheering crowds.

As he spoke, two Israeli jets crashed the sound barrier But Lebanon contends overhead, causing sonie Israel must withdraw first and booms that reverberated

before that. What is impor-

tant is that the interim au-

thority is ready, and only

Mahmoud Mestiri and Presi-

dent Rabbani can agree when

power happen to an incom-

plete mechanism?" he asked.

earlier comments by Mr.

Mestiri, who said Mr. Rabba-

ni had given him an uncon-

ditional undertaking to step

aside on the Afghan new

The dispute last time was

over the involvement of Tali-

bans, which forced its way

onto the Afghan political and

military landscape in a

dramatic advance through a

third of the country's 30 pro-

His statement contradicted

"How can the transfer of

that time is."

year.

Kabul balance shifts

role proportionate to their said. "It could even happen military strength.' "We are not for a monopoly (of power) by any side," observed Mr. Morad.

U.N. special envoy Mohammad Mestiri anuonneed plans last Wednesday to delay the power transfer to a neutral authority by one month to March 21, the start of the Afghan new year.

last-minute dispute over the role of the Talibans forced the postponement. Mr. Morad told reporters it was up to Mr. Mestiri and Mr. Rabbani to agree to the interim authority's composi-

The transfer was to have

taken place on Feb. 21, but a

"It is not important for us that the transfer of power happens on March 21," he

Some U.S. aerospace com-panies, it said, boycotted the Arafat back in Gaza after Saudi talks

(Continued from page 1) average last Friday of the Holy-Month -capital to mark Jerusalem; of Ramadan.

Day on Friday. Many worshippers were Israel is a "racist, illegit-allowed in from the West mate and usurper regime Israel is a "racist, illegitiwhich should be destroyed," Bank despite a closure of the imposed Jan. 22 after the Akbar Nateq Nuri told a

The prayers ended without incident and Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel would consider a further easing of the closure next week. The closure isn't an end in itself, only a measure to in-

crease security and avoid friction between Israelis and Palestinians," Mr. Shahal told reporters in Jerusalem. At Al Aqsa, Palestinians stood shoulder-to-shoulder to listen to a fiery sermon by

clergyman Yousef Abn "You have come to prove that Jerusalem is an Islamic city," Sheikh Abu Sneineh told the crowd. He complained that Israeli rule "still weighs on us, the closure and

starvation is a burden on us." The closure bas barred all but a few thousand Palestionian labourers from reaching jobs in Israel, denying many a livelihood for more than a

month. Ramadan prayers also ended without incident at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the tense city of Hebron. The site is holy to both Muslims and Jews. Jewish worshippers were barred from the site for a day Friday to avoid frictions

Soldiers detained four Israeli left-wingers who tried to stage a solidarity demonstration with Palestinians in Hebron and ignored orders by troops to leave the area.
In the West Bank town of Nabius, meanwhile, dozens of youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers who responded by firing rubber bullets and tear-gas. Two

with the Palestinians.

Palestinians were hurt and 20 arrested, Israeli reports said. Near the West Bank town of Ramallan, Palestinians threw a firebomb at an Israeli bus, shattering the wind-

shield. No one was hart. fran meanwhile renewed its call for Israel's destruction as tens of thousands of people took to the streets of the

(Continued from page 12) openness of the Iraqi side,"

made to put the long-term minated in addition to commonitoring of Iraq's arms in-

Baghdad's help for a full accounting of weapons prohi-bited under the ceasefire

"The more thorny item isto get Iraq to declare to us all Mr. Ekens said he was prohibited weapons to easure pleased with the progress that these weapons are cliponents, materials and capadustry in place but needed bilities," he said.

Hike in German interest rates will negatively affect the dollar

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Feb. 16, 1995 until Wednesday, Feb. 22, 1995, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai

FUNDAMENTAL VIEW: The dollar plummeted to a 28-month low against the Deutschemark and continues to be weak against the yen. Ongoing concerns about Mexico economic crisis and delay in finalising the aid package seems to have taken a toll on the dollar. The dollar's wees were compounded by speculation that the Bundesbank will raise rates earlier than expected. If the Bundesbank does hike rates, narrowing the U.S.-German interest differential, that should be negative for the dollar. Another concern for the dollar is that Japan's earthquake, which caused an estimated \$100 billion in damage, could push up Japan's long-term interest rates keeping Japanese money at home and putting

upward pressure on the yen.

We still believe that the Fed will eventually tighten policy enough to boost the dollar to the JPY/USD 105 and DM/USD 1.60-to-1.65 levels over the next six months. Longer-term, however, the case for yen strength based on Japan's large trade surplus and small appetite for dollar risk remain intact. We continue to expect the yen to trade around JPY/USD 95 on a 12-month view.

Technical View: Last week, dollar weakness against the European currences and the Japanese yeu offset strength versus both the Australian and Canadian dollars. As a result, the U.S. dollar index fell 1.5 per cent. This was the second consecutive weekly decline. Despite a sentiment background for the dollar that is neutral at worst, short term momentum is deteriorating. Moreover - and perhaps more importantly - medium term momentum is coming off of its most overbought levels in 12 months and appears to have the potential to remain under pressure into the first part of April.

Thus, the prospects for a test of at least the October low at 84.91 seem reasonably good; a break of that level would allow for 83.00. Important resistance exists just above 90.00.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The dollar has been in a steady decline against the yen dropping to JPY/USD 97.08. Despite seven interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve over the last year and 12-month interest rate spreads of more than 430 points in favour of the U.S., the dollar continues to be weak against the yen. The poor appetite of Japanese investors for dollar securities despite the rise in U.S. interest rates over the last year could perhaps be explained by the cumulative foreign exchange losses that Japan suffered due to dollar weakness since the early 1980s. We recently estimated these losses to sow amount to roughly \$400 billion. While Japan's current account surplus in shrinking and is projected to be under \$100 billion this year compared to about \$125 billion in 1994, that may still imply an excess supply of dollars relative dollar demand by Japan's financial institutions. The financial ingac; of Japan's earthquake could also eventually turn out to be a negative for the dollar if it helps push up long-term rates in Japan and keeps more Japanese capital at home. For now, we continue to believe that further fed tightening ill eventually give the dollar a modest boost against the yen ": " the next six months or so. We continue to expect the

Fig. 5:22 New: The Japanese yen gained 1.7 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 17. The in an Euckground for the currency continues to deteriothe tall is moving away from its recent oversold readings into neutral territory.

are the next 12 months.

Additiousa short term momentum is near overbought instance, and the currency is beginning to test resistance, T. Lum term momentum has the potential to remain strong remains a least the rest of this quarter. Thus, while a near term decline is possible, it is likely that the foundation is being laid for a ful-blown test of the 96-97 Y/U.S.\$ area (and pessely beyond) benchmark support remains at 100.80-

Deutschemark

Fundamental View: The dollar tumbled against the Deutschemark dropping to a 28-month low of DM/USD 1.469, the lowest core since Cct. 16, 1992. There seems to be no respite for the dollar. Initially, the Mexican economic crisis and the delay in finalising the aid package weighed down the dollar.

After the aid package was finalised and signed on Tuesday, the dollar fallled to get any boost with the market expressing skepticism on whether the aid package will remedy Mexico's financial crisis.

The dollar also lost ground amidst speculation that German rates will rise sooner than expected. The Bundesbank in its February monthly report issued a clear warning on looming inflation risks in Germany, warning that "monetary policy will... resist any increase in inflation." This set off specualtion that the Bundesbank would hike interest rates earlier than expected, giving a boost to the mark.

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The mark gained across-the-board in Europe as the British pound, the French franc and the Italian lira weakened due to political incertainty in these countries.

We remain very cautious about the dollar prospects in the next few weeks. Over the next six-to-twelve months, we project modest appreciation of the dollar to the DM/USD 1.60-to-1.65 range, once the current uncertainty settles

Technical View: The Deutschemark rallied 2.5 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week making it the strongest currency among the six we most regulary discuss. In so doing, the currency penetrated its high of last October. After recent overbought readings, sentiment is now viewed as neutral. Although medium term momentum oscillators are neutral, they are coming off of their most oversold readings since early 1994 and appear to be able to maintain an upward bias through March. Short term momentum is also currently

With the penetration of last October's high, the way may be being paved for a test of the 1992 high at 1.39-1.41 DM/U.S.\$. There is nearby support beginning at 1.536 but the 1.58 area remains benchmark support.

Against the yen, the D-mark gained 0.8 per cent last week. Medium term oscillators have the potential to remain upwardly biased into at least mid March. Resistance exists at 66.60, with trendline support below 64.00.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: Undermined by political concern and broad-based Deutschemark strength, the British pound trumbled below DM/GBP 2.33 for the first time in two years. At one point, the pound dropped to DM/GBP 2.327 marks, the lowest since the historic low of DM/GBP 2.31 reached on February 25, 1993. The pound made some gains against the dollar to trade around USD/GBP 1.57. The pound's weakness against the DM is largely the result of political uncertainties in the U.K. since the economic fundamentals continue to be good (GDP growth of 4 per cent in 1994 with core inflation rate of 2.8 per cent). The ruling Conservative Party has been torn by conflict over the progress towards greater European integration. The rift in the party is expected to widen if Prime Minister Major goes ahead with a referendum over forging closer links with Europe. There are rumours that Chancellor of Exchequer Ken Clarke will

resign if Major goes ahead with the referendum.

Our U.K. analysts attach a low probability to the collapse of John Major's government and fresh general elections. This is based on the premise that anti-Major elements in the Conservative Party will stop short of bringing down the Major government and risk elections at a time when the Conservative Party is trailing very badly in the polls. Nonetheless, political uncertainty is weighing down the

Compounding the pound's woes is the strength the mark is drawing from speculation in the market that German interest rates could rise sooner than expected, narrowing the U.K.-German interest differential. Once the storm in the (political) tea cup blows over, the pound is expected to strengthen and move towards our 12-month forecast of DM/GBP 2.50.

Technical View: The British pound gained 1.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 17. Sentiment has improved to neutral. Both short and mediumterm momentum are bottoming, with the latter likely to remain strong through March. Thus, an important low may be in place. A rally decisively through 1.597-1.602 U.S.\$/L

could well signal an eventual challenge of the 1894 high at \$1638. Nearby support is \$1.553-1.544.

Against the DM, sterling fell 1.3 per cent last week.

Medium term momentum is weak and appears likely to remain so for seveal more weeks. Next support is likely below 2.33. Resistance exists at 2.38-2.39, then above 2.46.

Swiss franc

Fundamental View: The Swiss franc continued to strengthen against the dollar rising to S.F./USD 1.25. The franc held steady against the Deutschemark around S.F./DM 0.845, one of the few European crosses to hold their own against the surging DM. The franc strength against the dollar is in part a spill over of the DM strength as invectors sought refuge in the DM with the peso problems hurting the U.S.S, while political uncertainties cloud to U.K., France and Italy. Switzerland's external balance approved in January. swinging to a surplus of \$775 million from a deficit of \$135 million in December. For 1994, Switzerland's trade surplus was \$2.58 billion, down from the 1993 surplus of \$2.77 billion in 1993. A current account surplus is a positive for the franc.

The interest differential is narrowing in favour of the DM and with market expectation that the Bundesbank could raise rates sooner than earlier expected the interest differential should further move in favour of the DM. Our outlook is for franc depreciation and we expect the franc to trade at S.F./USD 1.38 and DM/USD 0.86 in 12-month's time.

Technical View: The Swiss france gained 2.2 per cent versus the greenback during the week ended Feb. 17. Sentiment has improved sharply in recent weeks and is now neutral. Both short and medium term oscillators have bottomed, with the latter likely to remain constructive through much of March. The currency has already entered the benchmark resistance zone at 1.23-1.26 S.F./U.S.\$; thus, the potential for a rally though that level has to be respected. If that were to happen, it could represent a significant breakout.

Nearby support exists at 1.30-1.31. The DM cross gained 0.2 per cent last week, but medium term momentum remains under pressure. This, plus the recent unsuccessful challenge of .848-.850 resistance, implies an upcoming test of nearby support at .837 and quite possibly even a test of bechmark support at .828.

Canadian dollar

Fundamental View: The Canadian dollar was steady against the U.S.\$ trading around C\$/U.S.\$ 1.40 as the market awaits the U.S.S trading around CNU.S.S 1.40 as the market awaits the presentation of the federal budget Finance Minister Paul Martin is scheduled to present the 1995-96 federal budget on February 27. Mr. Martin has set a goal of reducing the federal budget deficit to 3 per cent of GDP (U.S.\$17.86 billion) by 1996-97. If the government presents a credible plan to reach this target, it should be a positive for C\$. Among the provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan and new Brunswick presented budgets with a surplus. Three other

Brunswick presented budgets with a surplus. Three other provinces are also expected to run budget surpluses. Improved budgetary position in the provinces should add to the credibility of the federal government's efforts to rein in Canadian public debt. The finalisation and signing of the Mexican aid package in Washington should remove uncer-tainty for all dollar-bloc countries, and be a positive for the

Canadian economic fundamentals continue to be good. Real GDP grew at 4.5 per cent 1994 and is projected to grow at 3.4 per cent in 1995. Inflation was 0.2 per cent in 1994 and projected at 2.2 per cent in 1995. We look for the C\$ to trade near C\$/U.S.\$ 1.38 in three-months, C\$/U.S.\$ 1.34 in six-months and C\$/U.S.\$ 1.28 in 12 months.

Technical View: The Canadian dollar fell 0.1 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment has moved out of oversold territory into the neutral zone. Short term momenturn appears to have peaked, suggesting nearby currency

However, medium term oscillators are generally constructive, so any upcoming weakness may only serve to set the stage for a potentially important low; this may be particularly true if sentiment indicators move back to oversold levels. If so, a better challenge of 1.37-1.40 C\$/U.S.\$ resistance (and possibly higher) may be forthcoming once anticipated

near term weakness runs its course. Important support still exists just beyond 1.42, then \$1.44-\$1.45.

Australian dollar

Fundamental View: The Australian dollar continues to be weak, dropping to a four-month low of U.S.\$/A\$ 0.735 before stabilising around U.S.\$/A\$ 0.74. The A\$ weakness is in large part due to weakness in metal commodity prices: The CRB index fell 9.3 per cent since Ian. 24. Also contributing to A\$ weakness is the continuing trend towards poor external deficit: The January current account deficit (to be released March 1) is expected to be around \$2.2 billion.

Interest rates are weighing down the AS. The RBA after raising official short-term rates 27 basis points since last August to 7.5 per cent is expected to keep rates on hold till April, with Prime Minister Keating advocating a softer monetary policy stance.

Apart from metals, other commodity prices continued to rise led by wool (strong Chinese demand) and coal (Japanese demand). That should be a positive for the A\$. Nonetheless, given the other negatives, our revised forecast is for the A\$ to trade around U.S.\$/A\$ 0.74 in 3 months time. For now. our 12-month forecast continues to be U.S.\$A\$ 0.75, but the risk is on the downside.

Technical View: The Australian dollar declined 1.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 17, and for the second straight week - was the weakest currencyamong the six we most regularly discuss. With the recent weakness, call buying has become apparent again, but put/call ratios are still classified as neutral. Short term momentum oscillators, which were recently at their most oversold levels since September 1993, are attempting to

However, medium term momentum has peaked and is likely to remain weak through March and possibly beyond. This, plus the currency's inability to get through important resistance beginning at 0.78 U.S.\$/A\$, suggests that an important top is in place and that any upcoming strength will be short-lived.

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Wall Street bull rally may become fatigued

NEW YORK (R) - Sheer momentum should carry Wall Street stocks higher now that the Dow index has cleared the 4,000 level, but most U.S. analysts and money managers said further gains will be li-

The Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 4,000 level for the first time. on Thursday, driven by hopes that a year-long trend of ris-ing U.S. interest rates has

The Dow, made up of the shares of 30 major American corporations traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), ended up 30.28 points at 4,003.33.

The breaching of the 4,000 level by the world's most closely watched stock market ndex marked the fall of a major psychological barrier for Wall Street. The Dow pierced the 3,000-point mark on April 17, 1991.

"I think we'll see 4,100 or 4,200 over the next two or three weeks," said Stanton Feeley, chief investment officer of Sunamerica Asset Management.

One noted market analyst, Elaine Garzarelli said U.S. stocks are in the first phase of new ball run.

"We're really in the first leg of a new buil market and I think any corrections from here will be very, very limited," Ms. Garzarelli said in an interview.

But analysts say there are risks ahead, ranging from the possibility of renewed inflation, the onset of recession or plain profit-taking after a heady buil market rally. Few traders were thinking right away about a downturn,

The gains were sparked by growing optimism that the Federal Reserve would keep its hands off interest rates for now, after a year of raising them sharply to cool the economy and prevent a rise in mflation.

Advancing issues on the NYSE led declines 1,443 to 778 on Thursday on active trading of more than 394 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

By most accounts, Wall Street stocks have been boosted by money coming out of Mexico - which is battling an economic crisis and other emerging markets.

"Emerging market money that got killed is coming back to our markets," Mr. Feeley

Eric Miller, chief investment officer at Donaldson, Lufkin Jenrette Securities Corp., said the bullish mood is likely to continue boosting stocks and bonds for now.

He noted that enthusiasm was whipped up after investors concluded that the Federal Reserve (Fed) would hold interest rates steady for

"Personally, I think the economy is still going to be showing a little faster growth," Mr. Miller said. I'm not as convinced as others" who have decided that the string of higher short-term rates is over.

He said the outlook for stocks also will hinge on corporate earnings. If the Fed sticks to its goal of bringing growth down to a 2.5 per cent rate, then "that implies a much-reduced level of earnings growth", Mr. Miller said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Analyse your position with friends and know which ones to retain and which ones to let go out of your life for best results and your happiness, Find peace of mind in the PM.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Conditions in the business world may appear strange now, but later you can turn them to your benefit. Be more self assured in all of your activities.

GRMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Today you should not rush into a new

interest before making a careful study of all the circumstances surrounding it. Take no risks with your reputation at this time. Be

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Come to a better understanding with one you love. A new contact can bring many benefits your way and will be very pleasant in the PM. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Resolve a problem you have with an associate today and cement better relations with this person. Beware

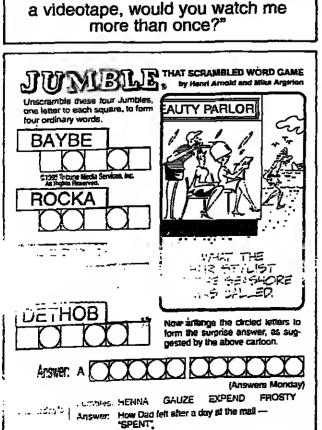
of newcomers who may cause friction around you. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure to finish regular routines today before engaging in anuscements. An argument with a friend is not serious, so forget it and it will work out on its own.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to be forceful with others today or you could regret it later. Don't neglect a worthy friend of long-standing or you may lose him or her altogether. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to keep your promises made to family members now. A new project needs more study before going ahead, otherwise there could be problems. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more objective in dealing with others now and get better results. Use extreme caution in motion and avoid any possible accident.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to save more money today instead of spending more than you can afford. Show others that you have wisdom in any endeavour you are involved

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now is the time to be calm and screne while going after a personal aim. Be sure to use money wisely at all times today to get the most from each dollar. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Taking on a martyr complex will get you nothing at this juncture. Quietly get things done today in a sure and positive manner that will bring you the best results.

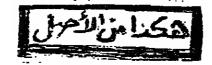
Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx



"Be honest with me, Harriet. If I were

Andy Capp SHE ISN'T DEAF - SHE JUST CAN'T HEAR HOW DID HE GOT WHAT PARDON? **Mutt'n'Jeff** NOW SEE HERE, NOW, SEE FACE YOUR PROBLEMS I'M FROM THE SON, IT'S ABOUT WHO'S AT AND FIGHT YOUR WAY BUTCH INTERNAL REVENUE POPI TIME YOU LEARNE! AFTE THE DOOR THROUGH LIFE ---SERVICE! I'M LOOKING TO FACE LIFE FEAR NOTHING! IF IT'S BUTCH FOR MR. MUTT! ALONE! FACE UPTO ME!





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A review

of economic news

from the Arabic press

Municipality

of Greater

Amman to

build three

kev tunnels

* The Municipality of

Greater Amman (MGA) in-

tends to open two tunnels

under Jabai Amman and Jab-

al Lweibdeh, in addition to

the tunnel that n intends to

open under Jabai Al Qalaa to

ease the traffic congestion in

the city. According to Mayor Mandouh Al Abbadi, the

Jabal Al Qalaa tunnel that

will link Wadi Haddadeh

with King Hussein Street, near the Palace of Justice.

The Jabal Lweibdeh tunnel

will begin from the Palace of

mad Street, near Samir Al

Rifzi School. The third tun-

nel will start from the Al

Rifai School and to Ras Al

Ai'n, going under Jahal Amman. Mr. Abbadi stressed

that there was no final soin-

oun to the traffic problem

except by building tunnels at

costs cheaper than construct-

ing bridges and cheaper for

doing maintenance in addi-

tion to maintaining the beau-

ty of Amman's mountains.

However, Mr. Ahhadi said. MGA will build a bridge and

a monel on the Fifth Circle

but there will be not be any

bridges or tunnels on the Sixth or Seventh circles. He

explained that the solution to

traffic congestion from the

Fourth Circle notil the

Seventh Circle lies in con-

structing a parallel road to

the Zahran Street and that.

the MGA has a plan to opeo

a road from Al Qaisiyeh area

to Wadi Abdown and on to

Queen Zein highway up to

the industrial area in Wadi Al

* While consumers com-

plain that car spare-parts are

expensive, traders affirm that

prices are declining despite

being internationally high.

Consumers base their frustra-

tion on the fact that customs

cession in the market and the

ere selling at prices below

hat was fixed by the associa-

on and the government (Al

have declined due to the re-

Justice until Prince Moham-

with

l rally may me fatigue

The gains were. Service Wall growing opinion row has e deared its hands off inter- $\pi > U.S.$ now, after a year them sharply to to nomy, and prevent 7747422244 4-1 34 H-17/2ustria)

Advancing issa-78 on Thursday ine ine Fre time المحمقة البراءين وا trading of more mar of mar million sharer or Vork Stock Esde surgy has By mod stop $\mathcal{P} \approx \mathcal{P}_{\mathrm{the}}$ Street stock by $A\pi_{271525}$ cui of Mexico i inv attling an economic Emerging mare in at good killed so.

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our markets, ly Enc Miller, die ment officer at 0-Lufkin leniene hkely to connect the noted book ke He noted that to whipped up E. ors concluded Coderal Reserve (F. hold interest rate 2.

"Personally, | E. count will be I'm not as one others who has a that the string s. 13 mm mot-17072 He saw the oral

weeks siso will be Poiste earning ed thek to in part 270 w.h. does no. : ale . caen mbarr T.C. Total could kee . COUP A

OROSCOPE

OR SAVERDAY FEBRUARY Es - " tin ore: to let goe:in I react of men

the business IN turn them 1 esta deur sou bé n.>

. . . Its Come to 1:

- united can big: The second of the second of the second e en dem you ben ⊊ with this person as and you have been recently reduced - La sork on orga on car spares but they still do The Control to be intended. not feel the change as prices yor needs are still the same or, some-- . Se him or an ange times, even higher. Salameh Pe sure to pre-Al Jundi, secretary-general of the Association of Car 4 ten biological could be prose Dealers and Traders of Spare Parts, denies that prices of spare-parts, both new and used, have gone up. On the plan hos use contrary, he stresses, prices

> declining purchase power of the people, in addition to the Be sur us stiff competition among merchants — which all have contributed to a state of general recession in the car spareparts market. Mr. Jundi explains that the declining pur-

en ded south for the

chasing power of the people and the low incomes make any price unacceptable to the buyer who even tends to believe that there has been a price increase. He said the association and the Ministry of Supply had investigated many complaints but none could be verified. Merchants assert that despite many reasons which should cause a price rise such as the higher rate of the Deutschemark and other factors in the manufacturing countries, local prices of car spares have not risen. The merchants affirm that since the past two months, and because of the recession in the spares martet, they have been selling at nices that are even lower han the ceiling fixed by the Ministry of Supply. Mr. Jundi ays that at the time the ministry announced a new formula for calculating prices f car spare parts, there were bout JD 300-JD 500 million orth of spares in the maret. These spares, he pointed nt, had to be reduced in rice by 20 per cent in rice decision. Bassam aish, owner of a spare-parts 1 top, was surprised when ked about complaints of igher prices. Mr. Yaish ressed that all merchants

AFM maintains upward trend amid mixed signals in market

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN - The easing of restrictions on commercial bank credits improved trading and prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) but the rise in interest rates that accompanied the relaxation of hank loan regulations attracted capital away from the stock exchange, brokers said Friday.

The weekly report of the AFM said turnover for last week was JD 6 million, a 50 per cent increase from the previous week, under 4,416 contracts which saw 2.9 million shares changing hands. The general AFM share

price index based 60 major companies closed at 144.2 point, up 1.3 points or 0.9 per cent from the week's open-

ing. Commercial bank stock

COMPANY'S KAND

ARAB BAKE PIC

BANK OF JORDAN

THE BOUSING BANK

JORDAN KUWAIT BANK

JORDAN ISLANIC BANK

JORDAN CULT BARK

BUSINESS BANK

JORDAN MATIONAL BANK

JORDAN NATIONAL BASE / NEW

MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

JORDAN INVESTMENT & PINANCE BANK

ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN

INSORANCE SECTOR

PRILADELPHIA INVESTMENT RANK.

ANNAM BANK FOR INVESTMENT

GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE

JORDAN FRENCE INSURANCE

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER

JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISH

JORDAN HINER HIMERAL ..

ARAB INTERNATIONAL BOTELS

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW

JORDAN NATIONAL SKIPPING LINES

TORDAY INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER

ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION

JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I

MATICMAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

TTED KIODLE EAST & CORNE

JORDAN TORACCO & CIGARETTES

THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES

JORDAN PROSPRATE MINES

HOLY LAND INSURANCE

BEIT FLHAL SAVINGLINVESTHENT FOR HOUSING

gained an average of two points, or 1.2 per cent, during the week. Insurance shares closed with a gain of 0.8 points or 0.6 per cent, industrials with 0.7 points or 0.6 per cent, and service sector stock gained 0.4 points or 0.3 pet

Shares of 74 companies were traded during the week. As trading closed for the week on Wednesday, 43 of them had gained, 18 lost and 13 remained stable.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 2.9 million. or 48.3 per cent, of the weekly volume, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.6 million, or 26.7 per cent, the services sector with JD 1.4 million, or 23.3 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 100,000, or 1.7 per cent. Brokers attributed the con-

tinued improvement in the market for the third week

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

TELEPHONE: 440170 / 443270

BOUSING BANK CENTER ANNAS - SEMELSANI

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERSON (18/02/1995 - 20/02/1995)

TRADING

VOLUKE.

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143,428

81,765

1,993

27,826

46,498

24,479

79.482

1,408

8,160

2,835

122,739

15.105

72,859

30.600

45,358

5,414

87,257

425,435

13,655

3,070

8,422

230,279

28,926

2,893

68,276

301,914

9,187

588.594

running to what investors saw as positive economic developments in the Middle East after a flurry of meetings grouping Arab states and Israel with the United States. the relaxation of rules governing local commercial bank credit facilities, and hopes that foreign capital was slow-

ly coming to the market On the first count, the market was encouraged by indications of stronger American involvement in improving Jordan's as well as the region's economies in terms

of trade and joint ventures. "While no physical projects have materialised yet. investors expect to a boost to economic activities in Jordan as well as in the region that would benefit local companies in the medium and long term," commented a broker, who, like other AFM dealers, are not permitted to be quoted by name.

PREV. OPENING CLOSING

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4.25C

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3.156

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CLOSING PRICE PRICE

372,490 187.252 187.250 188.750

4.310

4.222

3.550

2.420

2.650

6.010

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1.302

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1609309

CEASISE

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CHANGE

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4.840

3.410

2.310

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CKANGE

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2.850

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mave by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to relax commercial pank credits allowed the banks themselves to increase their AFM portfolios in addition to meeting market demand for individuale.

"However, the CBI move could have led to much heater figures, in prices and turnover in the market, 285 week but the rise in commercial bank interest rates appeared to have drawn out some capital from the stock exchange to the commercial

brokers said

banks," said the broker. The broker noted that the recent issurance by the CBI of certificates of deposit at around nine per cent annual interest was followed by 2 rise in commercial back inlerest rates. "This was found by some AFM investors as a better option than subjecting their funds to the uncertain-

THE ARAB POTASE/KEM

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LIVESTOCK & POCLIERY

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JORDAN SULPRO-CHEMICALS

DETVERSAL MODERS INTOSTRUES

JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESUTROES CO.

KANTEER INVESTMENT

JORDAN STEEL

ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES

A SECURE

Hotei

JORDAN ROCKWOOL DIGGSSESS

UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL ISSUSTRIES

JORDAN INCUSTRIES & MATTE/ILMOD

MATTCHAL CABLE & WIRE HASTFACTURING

ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM, & CHEMICALS

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

RAFIA ISDUSTRIES

CORDAN PETROLETH REFINALY

THE JORDAN MORSTED MILLS

JORDAN CERANIC INDESTRIES

THE INDISTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL

ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURES

ARAB CERCICAL DETERMENTS INDUSTRIES

DAR AL DAMA SEVENCEMENT & DECESSIONENT

ARAB INVESTMENT 6 THERMATICHAL TRACE

THIERMEDIATE PETRO-CSENIUL INDUSTRIES

THE JORDAN PIPES MANIFACTIVENS

ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRAILES

On the local scene, the cies of the stock market."

On the third count, however, many brokers said they believed that a small infusion of foreign funds to local shares that had raised high hopes of massive foreign capital entering the AFM

were a false alarm. "Some investors appeared to have blindly jumped intothe conclusion that the small having two weeks ago was

the forerunner of a massive flow of foreign funds." said another AFM dealer. Obviously they did not coh-

sider that foreign portfolio firms are much more calculate than most local investors and do consider the impact of their entry to the market on share prices before actually

buying local stock." Foreign buyers, in general, do not enter the market when prices are high," added

the dealer. "They wait for the moment that they feel is the right opportunity to huy, and this, in most cases, comes when prices have hit a line that foreign investors consider the bottom.

"That is what happened two weeks ago," said the dealer, noting that the small foreign buying came when the index had gone down to nearly 140 points.

U.S. firms sign \$4b in China energy deals

BELING (R) - U.S. and Chinese firms Friday signed 26 energy deals worth \$4 billion, a boost for electricity hungry China and a promising finale to a five-day trip by S. Energy Secretary Huzel O'Leary.

The U.S. firms and their Chinese partners took turns to sit down and initial the

12,018

37,846 5,510

£39,481

6.3:2

22,861

2,148

67,812

157,622

56,544

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117,562

86,345

948

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8,745

29, 177

16,383

18,413

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:65,201

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1.440

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2.470

1.490

4.100

0.760

4.920

1.730

2.560

1.700

4.200

CHANGE

0.970

1.030

269,436

17,380

0.970

1.030

0.990

1.000

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contracts, letters of intent and memoranda of understanding.

The deals included a contract to explore for natural gas in the South China Sea, sales of U.S. wind turbines. hydropower and coalwashing equipment, compo-nents for a nuclear power station and joint venture

9.433

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2170892 INDEX NUMBER: 124.75

1 +0.552

ter of intent to set up a joint venture to build and operate a 1.300 megawan power station in western Sichuan between the province's power company and a unit of General Public Utilities (GPU), one of the higgest power firms in New Jersey. The plant requires a capital

The largest deal was a let-

investment of more than \$1.2 billion, with the U.S. share of the financing more than \$1 billion, it said.

Such agreements are a hoost for Chinese leaders. eager to channel more foreign capital and technology into the energy sector and reduce power shortages.

Foreign bankers have expressed contern over the terms under which China was inviting foreign capital into this sector, with Beijing eager to have no bank guarantees of repayment and a cap on the rate of return.

Ms. O'Leary said she had not encouraged the Chinese firms involved in the power projects to offer a state bank guarantee for them, saving that the process was more. imponant.

LONDON **EXCHANGE**

RATES

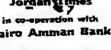
LONDON (R) - Following are the huying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and hullion markets Friday.

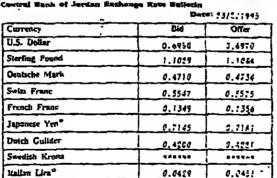
U.S. \$1.00 costs

1.3928/38 Canadian dollar 1.4688/98 Deutschemarks 1.6466/76 Dutch guilders. 1.2490/00 Swiss francs Belgian france 5.1500/50 French francs 1627.4/8.4 Italian lire 97.00/10 Japanese yen 7.2575/75 Swedish crowns 6.4770/20 Norwegian crowns 5.8130/80 Danish crowns One sterling\$1.5886/96

Markets







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Per Lee								
Other Cur	rencies			Date	• :	5/2:1945		
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Saudi Riya	4		0.1	849		0.1867		
Kuwaiti Di	instr		2.3	156		7.3500		
Quisri Riy	rd .		0.1900		0.1920			
Egyptisa F	Peund		0.1900		0.2140			
Omani Riy	raž		1.7	960	_	:.i110		
UAE Dirh) . 		0.1	127		0.:904		
Greek Drackpta*			0.2775			0.5115		
Cypriot Pa	wed		7.4	650		1.5763		
Precions M	ersit.			Date:	23	/2/1995		
Melal	USD/O2	JD/Gm*	Metal	USDVC)2	JD/Gm		
Geld	379.45	7.50	Silver	4.63	,	C.: (1		

INDEX SUBER: 161.51 1 *1.737 GRARD TOTAL 4755360 :NDEK NUMBER: 144.23 3.600 3.600 PARALLEL MARKET STADIES ASTIVITY FOR THE FERICO (18/07/1995 - 22/02/1995) 2.550 2,430 PREV. CPENIUS CLOSING 2.500 2.550 INDEX NUMBER: 137.07 COMPANY'S NAME TRADING : +0.56% VOLUME 70 PRICE 1.540 1.550 1.440 0.900 CENTRAL GENERAL TRACING & STORAGE 0.900 0.960 6.560 JORDAN TRADE PACILITIES 0.800 0.800 2.950- 2.950 2.900 0.500 MIDDLE PAST FOR DETAIL TRADE CO. 0.500 100 4.840 4.950 ZARKA PRIVATE CYTYERSITY 1.460 36,735 1.460 1.470 3.410 3.420 2.290 DELFIED CO. FOR CREASIZING CAND TRANS. B3.065 2.310 2.315 2.310 , 2.350 ARAB FIN INT. CO 1.010 1,010 155,923 1.010 0.970 0.970 1.100 1 ARAB FOOD & REDICAL APPLIANCES 1.070 1.070 5,207 3,578 11.650 11.650 MATIONAL CHIORING INCOSTRATES CO.LTD 1.680 71,883 1.680 2.440 2.440 2.350 3.640 3.510 JORDAN NEW CARLE COMPANY 1.670 30,542 1.670 RATIONAL MULTIPLE INCUSTRIES 78,743 1.200 1.200 1.210 893177 INDEX NUMBER: 132.43 PL-IAY REACY WEAR HASTFACTURING CO. 23.684 2.300 2.300 2.250 : +C_272 INTERNATIONAL TUBACCO & CIGARETTES 1.570 2.560 1.560 95,761 KATTOWAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES 100,773 1.200 1.200 34.500 34.500 DEION CHEMICAL & VECATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI 2.600 2.600 33,628 2.400

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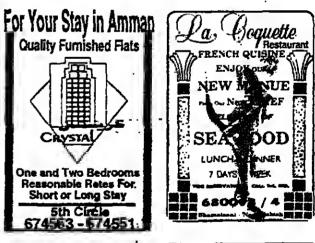








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— Steering failure is being hlamed for the death of three-time world motor racing champion Ayrton Senna according to a legal source here Friday.

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Earlier in the day a 500page report on Senna's fatal crash at the San Marino Grand Prix last year and the fatal accident of Austrian Roland Ratzenberger at the same race, was handed over to Italian prosecutors.

Senna died from head injuries after his Williams ploughed into a wall at the infamous Tamhurello corner during the May 1 race.

Ratzenberger, driving a Simtex, died following a crash the previous day during practice

Prosecutors now have to decide whether or not anyone should be charged with manslaughter. Williams owner Frank Williams and team designer Patrie Head are amongst 17 people who are under investigation by the Italian authorities.



The late Ayrton Senna

Earlier this year Max Mosley, president of FIA, motor sport's ruling body, warned that if any charges were brought Formula One teams may boycott Italy.

"It could make us look at where we race and the circumstances under which we

race," said Mosley. Last week Patrick Head criticised the report on the

"We have a copy of what is supposedly the expert's report going to the magis-traate. I cannot actually be-

lieve that the technical people who I am aware were involved had any influence on it. It does not appear to have anything like the structure of somebody with a technically-trained mind," complained Head.

late 7-0 run by the Bucks.

Day made a 3-pointer to give

Milwaukee its first lead of the

fourth quarter, 89-88, with

2:49 left. Day then stole the

ball from Calbert Cheaney,

and Marty Conlon hit a jum-

per to put the Bucks ahead

91-88. Cheaney scored 22 points for the Bullets, who

Jazz 118, Clippers 109: At

Salt Lake City, Karl Malone

scored 29 points and Utah

used a 9-0 fourth-quarter run

to beaet the Clippers. After

Pooh Richardson's jumper

cut Utah's lead to 97-96 with

7-43 left in the fourth period.

Malone and Adam Keefe combined for all nine of

Utah's points during the deci-

sive run. Richardson and Loy

Vaught led the Clippers with

Sonics 120, Timberwolves 104: At Tacoma, Kendall Gill

scored-15 of his career-high

34 points in the third quarter

and Shawn Kemp had 20

poionts and 13 rebounds for

the Sonics. Seattle led by 35

after three quarters, en route

to its 15th straight victory

over the Timberwolves. It

was the 300th career victory

for Seattle coach George

21 points apiece.

have lost 11 of 12 games.

Suns lose again but lead Pacific Division

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Barkley isn't easily

After his Phoenix Suns were beaten by San Antonio 105-100, Barkley said he didn't consider the Sprus a contender in the West.

'It's a three-dog race and the Spurs aren't one of said Barkley, who missed 15 of 22 shots against San Antonio. "They cannot series. We have a better team than they do. They played as good as they can tonight, and we did not play very good, and we still should have

San Antonio's Sean Elliott disagreed.

You guys listen too much to Charles and what he's saying," said Elliott, who scored seveo of his 19 points in the final two minutes be-fore a season-high crowd of 34,215 at the Alamodome.
"I think it's good to be in our position. We might be

able to surprise some peo-The Spurs, who trail firstplace Utah hy 2 games in the Midwest Division, have won

three in a row and 12 of 14 "It was a struggle," coach

CLASS TICKET

LONDON

Boh Hill said, "We had a lot of problems, but we stood in there and showed a lot of

David Rohinson scored 34 points and Denois Rodman grahhed 24 rebounds for the Sprus, who took their first lead of the second half on Elliott's layup and foul shot with 1:48 left.

"This team is getting a lot of confidence in those situa-tions," Elliott said. "We believe we can go out there and finish teams off."

four after starting the month 5-1. The Suns, who lost to Boston on Tuesday night, have dropped two in a row for the first time this season, hut still lead the Pacific Division by three games over Seattle.

"I'm very proud of our team," Phoenix coach Paul Westphal said. "Coming back from last night was tough, hut we played sensa-

can do, hut they got all the breaks. We're not crying, hut it is too had we didn't win."

Pacers 113, Nets 94: At East Rutherford, Reggie Miller scored 27 points and Indiana sbot 58 per cent from the field to win its fourth consecutive game. The loss spoiled Derrick Coleman's return to the Nets' lineup. He had 14 points and 10 rebounds after missing six games with a chip fracture of his pelvis.

Hornets 100, Kings 89: At Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning Phoenix has lost three of had 29 points and 17 rehounds for the Hornets. Mugsy Bogues and Larry Johnson each added 19 points for Charlotte, which used a 10-3 run to take a 72-58 lead late in the third quarter. Walt Williams lead Sacramento

with 28 points. Bucks 100, Bullets 92: At Milwaukee,, Todd Day

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 119 New York 103 Atlanta 110 Denver 105 Houston 110

Orlando 117 Sacramento 90 Philadelphia 75 Detroit 99

682053

Chang aces his way through

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Defending champion Michael Chang lost just eight points on his serve in beating Jim Grabh 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 Thurs-day night in the second round of the Comcast U.S. indoor.

Chang, seeded third and ranked No. 6, fired eight aces, served five love games and didn't give up a break or a double fault.

Both players held serve until Chang hroke Grabb in the 11th game of the fioal set. Serving at 40-0, he won when Grahb hackhanded a second serve weakly into the net. Chang won the first-set tiebreak on a diving crosscourt backhand that passed Grabb at the net.

"It's my goal to get better and better (on serve) because it's a vital part of tennis," Chang said.

Grabh, a 13-year tour veteran who has made it to the quarterfinals in this event three times, had difficulty putting anything away, in-cluding overheads and drop shots.

Earlier, an agitated Jonathan Stark pulled off a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 upset of fifthseeded Patrick Rafter. Rafter, an Austrian ranked 20th in the world, backbanded a 110 mph serve long to lose match point.

Chang, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi are the only seeds remaining.

Also advancing was Richey Reneberg, a 7-5, 7-5 winner over amhidextrous doubles specialist Luke Jensen. Jensen, ranked no. 426, has won only two singles matches this

Kafelnikov struggies on

In Stattgart, Yevgeny Kafelnikov survived 17 aces hy David Wheaton, overcame spells of dizziness and beat the American in three sets to reach the quarterfinals of the Eurocard Open.

"I still don't know how I'm winning these matches," said the Russian after his 7-5, 4-6,

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Young America rallies to beat America3

SAN DIEGO (AFP) - Young America came from behind to defeat America3 by one minute and 19 seconds Thursday in an America's Cup defender trials race. The third round-robin in the defender trials ends when Stars and Stripes races America3. The third round of challenger trials concluded Wednesady. The all-women crew on America3 won the start by 12 seconds and led by 22 seconds at the first mark. But Young America took the lead on the first run and was never headed. The victory gave Kevin Mahaney's Young America sole possession of the lead in the defender standings.

Sigei to miss Nairobi cross country

NAIROBI (AFP) — More than 200 runners will line up here Saturday for the Nairobi International Cross Country Challenge, conspicuous by his absence will be Kenya's two-time World Cross Country champion William Sigei. Sigei is nursing an injured ankle, made worse hy his participation in the Kenya National Cross Country race, which he trailed in below 40th position. He is said to have left Nairobi for London for treatment. In his absence, Kenya will now pin its hopes for top honours in Saturday's event and the World Cross Country championship in Durban, Scotland in Paul Tergat, winner of the national

Nantes make history

PARIS (R) - French soccer league leaders Nantes made history on Thursday when they drew 1-1 at St. Etienne to extend to 27 matches their unbeaten run since the start of the season. The young Breton team, who scored through striker Nicolas Ouedec in the 18th minute and concede an own goal by defender Christian Karembeu in the 64th, beat the record set in 1987 by Paris St. Germain, who went 26 matches without defeat to start the season. PSG now share with Nantes the overall unbeaten record in the French league. The Parisians remained unbeaten for 27 matches in the middle of the 1992-1993 season.

Khan gets draw he wanted

CARDIFF (AFP) - Jansher Khan was handed the British Open draw that he believes will help him extend a record for Pakistan here Friday. The top-seeded title-holder from Peshawar should have a comfortable ride to the last four and if he wins the world's oldest and most prestigious title a fourth time in a row it will be the 14th consecutive time a Pakistani has won it. That will beat the previous best set up in the 1950's and 60's by four other famous Panthans, Hashim, Azam, Roshan and Mohibullah Khan. Roshan's son Jahangir Khan won the British Open a record ten times immediately prior to Jansher's first success in 1992.

Wachter out for the season

VIENNA (AP) — Austria's top woman skier, Anita Wachter, will have to sit out the rest of the season because Olympics and finished secood in the 1992 Olympics.

of torn ligaments in her knee and ankle, the Austrian press agency reported Thursday. The 28-year-old Wachter, who had arthroscopic surgery on her left knee three years ago, re-injured it and her left ankle in a fall on the slopes during practice Wednesday. Wachter won the combined gold medal, for the downhill and slalom combined, in the 1988

Kiptanui attacks own 3,000 record

LONDON (R) - Moses Kiptanui attacks his own world 3,000 metres indoor record on Saturday less than his previous mark by 2.1 seconds.

The world steeplechase champion takes on Burundi's Venuste Nioyngabno, one of

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the most talented young mid- on February 12. dle distance runners in the world, at an international meeting in Birmingham, Enand, in a field which includes three other talented

We have got all the ingredients for a world record," Ian Stewart, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) promotions officer, said this

Irishman Paul Donovan has being designated as the pacemaker for the first two kilometres

Kiptanui, 23, lowered the mark to seven minutes 35.15 seconds in Ghent, Belgium,

Olympic and world 100 metres champion Linford Christie, who hroke the world indoor 200 metres record in Lievin, this month has pulled out of Saturday's 200 because a back injury. Christie will still, however, complete inthe 60 metres where

fastest time of 6.47. In Christie's absence Namihia's world outdoor champion Frankie Fredericks takes on world silver medallist John Regis with Nigeria's Olapade Adeniken and Regis's training partner Darren Braithwaite also in the field.

Schoolboy may be future NBA star

CHICAGO (AP) - Michael Jordan has retired. Frank Thomas is on strike. These days, the greatest show in Chicago sports is an 18-year-old kid named Kevin Gar-

Never heard of him? You

Garnett, a 6-foot-11 (2.11metre) center for Chiago's Farragut High School, is part Moses Malone, part Alonzo Mourning, part Magic John-son. And if his skills and body keep developing he might just follow those play-ers into NBA stardom: Garnett shakes backboards

with dunks, blocks shots info the 15th row, caps fast breaks with look-away passes, swishes jumpers and scatters bodies under the boards College recruiters have been watching Garnett for

years. NBA scouts are beginning to take note, too.

"The fact is, there are players his size in the NBA who don't have nearly as many skills," said Farragut coach William Nelson, the benefici-ary of Garnett's decision to relocate from South Carolina to Chicago for his senior season. "He's better than a lot of NBA players."

Growing crowds have been packing high school gyms in the Chicago area to get a glimpse of Garnett and his flashy teammate, swingman Ronnie Fields.

Saturday, more than 5,000 fans soneezed into DePaul's Alumni Hall and watched in awe as Garnett dominated Philadelphia's Roman Catholic, one of the top U.S. high school teams.

Garnett had 22 points,:16

rebounds, nine blocked shots

and six assists. Those are close to Garnett's season averages for Farragut, which has a 22-1 won-lost record. In the third quarter alone, the thrilled andience saw Garnett: block three shots: catch fields' long pass, lay in the ball and get a technical foul for taunting; throw in a two-handed jam that left the backboard shaking for 45 seconds; steal the ball at mid-court and feed Maurice Woodfork for a dunk; make two jumpers in the lane; and

tip in a missed Farragut shot. Hundreds of fans remained after the Admirals' 84-72 vicnanting G name, patting him on the back and asking for auto-

graphs, Though his dunk brought the crowd to its feet, it was passes — from the high post, the low post and on the move in break situations — that showcased what makes him.

thing. You give the ball up and trust your teammates to give it hack," said Garnett.

Garnett's variety of pinpoint he has clocked the year's

special.
"It's a South Carolina.

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Neither vulnerable NORTH

SOUTH

counting.

De Boer landed in three no trump
on the suction shown. Five clubs
and five diamonds were other popu-lar contracts, neither of which suc-

WITH OMAR SHARIF 6 TANNAH HIRSCH

DOWN FOR THE COUNT en's teams, showed that three

V952 VJ74 +AKJ654 WEST EAST +K96 +108432 TKQJ108547 Void V95 \10632 +10 +Q987

idding:
West North E
3 7 3 NT P
Page
ning lead: King of 7 North East 3 NT Pass

There were all sorts of results on this deal from the 1993 World Team Championship held in Santiago.
Chile. For those who resched three no trump, as did Wubbo de Boer of the winning Netherlands team, the hand was an object lesson on

iar contracts, nettner of which suc-ceeded when the declarers failed to find the winning line. But de Boer, as did Mari Ryman and Wen Gong of the Swedish and Chinese Wom-

GOREN BRIDGE

trump was easy.

The opening heart lead was taken. by the ace in the closed gand as East, discarded a spade. Declarer crossed to the king of clubs, returned to hand with a diamond and led another chub. Had West followed, declarer would have finessed and that would have been that—East could make no harmful return and the jack of diamonds was the entry to the tadiamonds was the entry to the ta-

clarer won the ace of clubs and cashed three more rounds of diamonds. Declarer had a complete, count of West's distribution. West had started with 3-7-2-1 and had too come down to six cards, since de-

tricks.

If West retained four hearts and west retained four nearts and two spades, declarer would exit with-n heart and, after taking four tricks, in the suit. West would have to leading a spade into declarer's major tensor-instead. West came down to five; hearts and the bare king of spades. hearts and the bare king of spaces. Declarer cashed the ace and, had the king not dropped. East would have: been thrown in when declarer co tinued with the queen of spades. Sooner or later East would have to yield the fulfilling trick either to declarer's spade or dummy's jack of

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King

NEW YORK (R) named former great Jean King as captain

new-style Federation leam Thursday, and said she was thinking asking another famet champion to play. King a member of winning learns, said 15 conference from her C office that among the she will be Irving to and season will be 38-ye Martina Navratilova. "No question, she is there in the top five it bles. King said on N lova, who retired from competition at the end

year. Navracilova wa Grand Slam singles att 31 in doubles in her c King said she plans lo Navranie va, whos coached the past five sometime this weekene with among others. Gi nandez, Man Joe Ferni Zina Garrison and McNeil. King will be assemb pool of six so 12 player will be available for F

tion Cup competition.

will be patterned aft.

men's Davis Cup fe Team officials said the will be named news Thu Four of those playe be selected for the O round match against a on April 22-25 in Mis I really want to everyone. youngster up." said King 51. w. placed Marty Riessen Though the United

has won the cup a rec times, it has not wor 1990 and ist reached th n 1994, failing 3-0 to King, who was on the cup in 1963, promis

Campa hatred

Nearly two years after national soccer stars d Gabon. Zambia has la a massive publicity ca Dersuade es soco that Gabon did net down the plane. Advertisements, flic

stickers, T-shirts, car church and theatre will urge Zambians real or imagined diff with Gabon, said Z state-run information the campaing organis paign is aimed at a violence againsi Ga

players and supporters

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King to lead U.S. into new Federation Cup

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Tennis Association named former great Billie Jean King as captain for the new-style Federation Cup team Thursday, and King said she was thinking about asking another famed past champion to play.

King, a member of seven winning teams, said in a teleconference from her Chicago office that among the players she will be trying to enlist this season will be 38-year-old Martina Navratilova

"No question, she is still up there in the top five in dou-hles," King said on Navratilova, who retired from singles competition at the end of last year. Navratilova won 18 Grand Slam singles titles and 31 in doubles in her career.

King said she plans to talk to Navratilova, whom she coached the past five years, sometime this weekend along with, among others, Gigi Fernandez, MaryJoe Fernandez, Zina Garrison and Lori

King will be assembling a pool of six to 12 players who will be available for Federation Cup competition, which will be patterued after the men's Davis Cup format. Team officials said the squad will be named next Thursday.

Four of those players will be selected for the opening round match against Austria on April 22-23 in Miami. "I really want to include

everyone, youngsters and up," said King 51, who re-placed Marty Riessen as U.S.

Though the United States has won the cup a record 14 times, it bas not won since 1990 and 1st reached the final in 1994, falling 3-0 to Spain. King, who was on the winning team in the inaugural

cup in 1963, promised an all-out commitment to win-



Martina Navratilova

"I like to win, I hate to lose," said King, who shares with Rosie Casal the U.S. record for most doubles wins with 27 and is second behind Chris Evert in total Fed Cup singles and doubles wins with

"I'm fanatical the way I coach that you should never underestimate your opponent and never take anything for granted no matter who you

Instead of 32 nations playing in a one week, knockout venue, the revised format features eight nations in the World Group, playing home

or away matches, like the Davis Cup, through the year. After April's first round, the semifinals are July 22-23 and the final November 25-

Each match is best-of-five matches, with four singles and one doubles. King applauds the new for

"It will allow for more exposure and being able to play at home is also good," said King. "My job is to get everyone in there and have everybody think about Fed Cup and what an honour it is to play for your country.
"My job is to make sure

European Basketball Panathinaikos, Limoges lead standings

Panthinaikos beat Real Madrid 68-66 in a nail-biting finish to take top spot in Group A Champion Clubs' basketball

At the end of a seesaw match which neither side ledby more than six points, Miroslav Pekarski earned the victory for the Greeks with his only basket of the match one minnte from time.

ahead 67-65 and also made a free throw to make it 68-65. Madrid, who missed many three-point attempts, tried to get in position for another but were stopped by a personal foul and foiled again on an attempt to convert a failed free throw into a three-point

Montenegrin Zarko Pas-palj for Greece and Joey Arlaukns of the United States for Spain both got 23

In Zagreb, former cham-pions Cibona beat Turkey's Efes Pilsen 79-59, securing a place in the quarterfinals with their fifth straight win.

Cibona, European cham-pions in 1985 and 1986, finished third in Group B by beating the Turks comfortably after trailing by as many as 13 points in the first half

Quarter-final draw: Bolog-na V Panathinaikos, Cibona Zagreb v real Madrid, Pesaro v Limoges, CSKA Moscow v Olympiakos. Matches to be played over two legs on March 9 and 14, with a thrid match on March He pnt Panathinaikos

with a thrid match on March 16 if aggregate scores level.
Semifinals, in Zaragosa,
Spain on April 11: Bologna or
Panathinaikos V CSKA Moscow or Olympiakos, Pesaro or
Limoges v Cibona Zagreb or
Real Madrid.

The final and third place play-off match are also in Zaragosa on April 13.

STANDINGS

Group	A

Group	^			
Panathinaikos (Greece)	14	10	4	24
Real Madrid (Spain)	14	9	5	23
CSKA Moscow (Russia)	14	9	5	23
Pesaro (Italy)	14	9	5	23
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	14	g	6	22
PAOK Salonika (Greece)	14	6	8	20
Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia)	14	3	11	17
Benfica (Portugal	14	2	12	16

Gı	quo	В	
		14	•

Limoges (France)	14	10	4	24
Olympiakos (Greece)	14	9	5	23
Cibona Zagreb (Croatia)	14	g	6	22
Bologna (Italy)	14	g	6	22
Barcelona (Spain)	14	g	6	22
Efes Pilsen (Turkey)	14	8	6	22
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany)	14	4	10	18
Joventut Badalona (Spain)	14	1	13	15

Russian star of University Games

JACA (AFP) - Russia's Olga Kosnacheva became the star of the World Winter University Games Friday, when she completed a clean sweep of all four cross country skiing gold medals. The student teacher from Moscow won Friday's 15km free style by nearly a minute and a half-as Russia produced the first 1-2-3 finish of the Games. Kosnacheva, who led from start fo finish, clocked 48min 20.6sec to beat Lulia Lemencuk (49:54.4) and Natalia Sokolova (50(08.8), Sokolova won her bronze hy less than three seconds after a desperate battle to the line with Japan's Kanoko Goto (50:11:4).

Diving great Louganis admits he has AIDS

Officials express sorrow, demand blood tests

INDIANAPOLIS (Agencies) — U.S. diving officials Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the news that four-time Olympic champion Greg Louganis has AIDS and said he was treated properly for injuries suffering during the 1988 Seoul Games when he was already HIV positive.

"United States Diving expresses deep sorrow with the news of the health condition affecting diving great Greg Louganis," said U.S. diving president Steve McFarland in a statement issued by the organisation.

"U.S. diving shares in the grief felt by family, friends and fans of Greg Louganis. Our hopes and prayers are with him as he prepares for the future struggles with this

In an interview to be broadcast on ABC television Friday, Louganis said has AIDS and revealed that he knew he was HIV positive when he competed in Seoul, where he cracked his head on the diving board during the springboard competition and hled into the

The news hrought outrage from a former South Korean Olympic organisr who said Louganis should not have competed if the knew he was infected with the AIDS virus. But U.S. diving officials said guidelines for reating blood-related injuries with regard to

AIDS were not set until the following year. "The 1988 Olympic Games was an event under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Procedures for treating such injuries were not specifically defined by the USOC until 1989, the same year the centre for disease control released their guidelines" McFarland said.

"In Seoul, Greg Louganis was treated in a manner consistent with medical recommendations that were appropriate at that time."

Louganis went on to win the gold medal after being treated for his head injury and became the first man ever to sweep diving gold in consecutive Olympics.

Throughout his career as an athlete, Greg Louganis was an outstanding representative of both the sport of diving in particular and the Olympic movement in general," the U.S. diving statement continued.

"His diving accomplishments, which included four Olympic gold medals, 47 U.S. national championships, five world championship titles and six Pan American Games gold medals, may never be equalled.

"There is no doubt AIDS and the HIV virus are among the most important healthrelated topics of our time. We strongly believe that these revelations, coming from a celebrated Olympic champion, will lead to increased education and awareness toward his very serious disease.'

'Blood tests needed for contact athletes'

In Seoul, South Korea, blood tests should be mandatory for boxing and other contact sports as a preventive measure against AIDS.

Park Seh-lik was commenting on reports that U.S. diving gold medallist Greg Louganis participated in the Seoul Olympics knowing he had tested positive for the HIV virus that causes the deadly disease

In the preliminaries of the 1988 springboard evetn. Longanis cracked his head on the board while making a reverse dive and hled into the pool.

"It once again has aroused the danger of AIDS spreading in some contact sports," Park said. "The IOC should carefully consider making blood tests mandatory for all contact athletes."

- Park said there is no need to test athletes in sports with no physical contact.
He said he thinks there was no danger of other divers being infected in the pool in which Louganis hled but that the U.S. diver

should feel "some degree of moral responsibility."
"I don't think he violated any rules by hiding the fact that he was HIV-positive, but

his case awakens us to the danger of AIDS in sports," he said. Cho Byung-Ryun, head of the medical team at the Seoul Olympics, said the chances

of someone being infected in a pool with HIV-tainted blood are "almost nil." "AIDS does not spread easily," he said. He said his medical team briefly discussed hether to conduct blood tests for athletes participating in the Seoul Olympics but was discouraged by the International Olympic

Cho said Louganis should not be hlamed simply for not confessing to his health condi-

"From a medical point of view, he did not violate any rules and he had no obligation to

Francois Carrard, director general of the. International Olympic Committee, agreed.

"The fact is that he was under no obligation to disclose his condition," Carrard said Thursday. "And secondly, from all the medical evidence available, there was not the slightest risk of any contamination.?

In an interview with ABC news, Louganis, 35, said he tested positive for HIV just before the 1988 Games and that it has developed into

He said he became "paralysed with fear" when he started bleeding in the pool hut decided not to divulge his condition. The next day, Louganis easily won the springboard

"I was so stunned," Louganis said. "I mean, what was going on in my mind at the time was, 'what's my responsibility? Do I say

Louganis said he never told the USOC crause "I was encouraged not do." and He said he felt sure the chlorinated water in the pool would dilute the virus.

Louganis is the only man to sweep diving gold medals at consecutive Olympics. He won form diving at the Olympics in 1984 and 1988.

Campaign to heal lingering hatred over soccer disaster that there was a plane crash,

Nearly two years after 18 top national soccer stars died in a plane crash off the coast of Gabon, Zamhia has launched a massive publicity campaign to persuade its soccer fans that Gabon did not shoot down the plane.

Advertisements, fliers, car stickers, T-shirts, caps, and church and theatre groups will urge Zambians to bury real or imagined differences with Gabon, said Zambia's state-run information service, the campaing organisers.
It said the \$300,000 cam-

paign is aimed at averting violence against Gabonese players and supporters during an Africa Cup match scheduled for April 9 in Lusaka. Since the Zambia air force

plane carrying 28 players and officials to a World Cnp playa-off in Senegal plunged into the sea on April 28. 1993, Zambia has accused Gabon of obstructing inves-

tigations into the crash. Because of the dispute, a popular belief emerged that the plane had been shotdown after passing over a Gabonese military base, said Patrick Jabane, director of the Zamhian information ser-

The indebted Zambian government says it has not on the crash hy independent investigators, including the

with Gabon. Last August, the Confederation of African Foothall **Jordan Times** was forced to postpone one international match after Tel: 667171

He said diplomatic efforts

have been made for severa

months to improve relations

Jabane said.

hoth countries said they

Canadian makers of the Buffalo military transport plane. "In the absence of the report, we assume there is no

could not guarantee the safe-



Kaser Jeddah

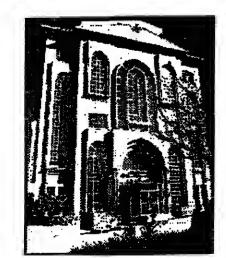
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Israel, Egypt avert NPT showdown; tensions linger

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Egypt averted a showdown over the nuclear Noo-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) after Egypt withdrew a threat not to sign the pact onless Israel did, Israeli officials said Friday.

However, the two sides remain at odds on other key issues in the nuclear dispute, iocluding Egypt's demand that nuclear disarmament be negotiated now in regional arms cootrol talks.

Foreign Minister Shimoo Peres said he rejected the demand wheo he met Thursday in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, and Egyptian President Hos-ni Mobarak.

"The Egyptians would like to start discussing now what the region should look like after peace (has heen achieved)," Mr. Peres told the Haaretz daily after his return from Cairo.

"We oppose this, and I said we would only discuss this issue in the framework of peace and reconciliation." Mr. Peres said.

The nuclear dispute has caused one of the biggest strains in relations since Israel and Egypt made peace

Egypt has insisted that Israel sign the NPT, which is up for recewal in April. Egypt has threatened not to renew its signature unless it is joined by Israel which is widely reported to possess nuclear weapons.

An Israeli official said Friday that Egypt no longer made the link. "The bottom line is Egypt is going to sign whether or not Israel does and Israel is not going to sign

margin of 4.5 per cent.

is reached in the region," said government spokesman Uri

Another senior Israeli official said Egypt has no means to force Israel into signing the

"Egypt has no means of pressuring Israel into joining the treaty," said the official, who refused to be named. Israel does not have to make any gestures to Egypt, he said and cast doubt on Egypt's threat to pull out of

The procedures for withdrawing are very compli-cated," the official said. Peres announced "agree-ment on some parts and dis-

agreements oo others" of the NPT after his talks in Cairo. "We agreed to continue our consultaions and our negotiations in the future,' he said.

Israel — citing threats from Libya, Iraq and Iran — has said it would only consider signing the NPT after it has signed peace treaties with all countries in the region.

The Egyptians issued conflicting statements Thursday. After a meeting with Mr. Peres, Mr. Musa said that, the question of signature is the right of every country to

But he later denied he backed down. "Our position is that Israel's adherence to the NPT is essectial ... adherence equals signing," he told the Associated Press.

Mr. Peres told the Egyptians on Thursday that Israel was ready to consider signing the NPT within two years after it has concluded peace treaties with all the countries in the region.

Haaretz said the Egyptians were cool to the idea, and

NEWS IN BRIEF

Netanyahu leaves Rabin trailing in polis

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

was left 13 percentage points behind right-wing opposition

leader Benjamin Netanyahu in an opinion poll published Friday. The Likud party chief garnered 33 per cent support against 20 per cent for Mr. Rabin in the survey for Maariv

nawspaper. Mr. Netanyahu was credited with 25 per ceot

against Mr. Rabin's 23 per cent on Jan. 21. Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres picked up 10 per cent and right-

in the poll carried out by the Motnin Institute. Far-right-

wiog Tsomet Party leader Rafael Eytan also took four per

cent, maverick Labour deputy Chaim Ramon three per

cent, Eovironment Minister Yossi Sarid two per cent and

Likud depoty Dan Meridor one per cent. But 23 per ceot

voiced no opinioo. The survey of 501 Israelis had an error

Israelis want death sentence overturned

TEL AVIV (AP) - Ao Israeli prosecutor has asked a

military coort to overturn the death sentence given to a

Palestinian coovicted of plotting a suicide bombing that

killed five Israelis last year. Moshe Bachar said a lower

court had overstepped its authority in November by

orderiog the execution of Said Badarneh, 24, instead of the

six life seotences requested by prosecutors. The court

adjourned without ruling or setting a date for the next

session. The unusual request reflected the strong opposi-

tion to capital punishment in Israel. In the Jewish state's

47-year history, the only persoo executed was Nazi war

Vietnam, Algeria seek greater cooperation

HANOI (AFP) - Vietnam and Algeria on Friday pledged

to increase their economic cooperation. During a visit to Hanoi by the Algerian mioister of commerce, Saci Aziza,

the two coontries signalled their intention to sign several

agreements, including a pact on investment protection,

according to Vietnamese and Algerian officials. Algeria

buys rice and coffee from Vietnam and hopes to diversify

its economic cooperation by undertaking oil exploration

and extraction, according to the Vietnamese press. Mr. Aziza, invited by his Vietnamese counterpart Le Van Triet,

is leading an official delegation including businessmen which arrived on Monday. The delegation has already met

Premier Vo Van Kiet. It will travel on to Ho Chi Minh City

in the south before leaving oo Sunday. Algiers and Hanoi

nave maintained diplomatic links forged during their

Life existed in UAE 6 million years ago

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Westeru scientists will meet here

next week after years of research into pre-historic animals

have helped reconstruct a picture of life in the region six

million years ago, organisers said Friday. The March 3-11

conference in Ahu Dhabi follows the discovery of fossilised

bones of such animals as primidve horses, giraffes and

elephants io the Baynuna area in Abu Dhabi's western

region, they said in a statement. Another discovery

involved some previously unknown species, such as a primitive gerbil, known locally as Abudhabia Baynunensis,

the statement said. The scientists from the United States.

Britain and other European countries will discuss 25 papers

on fossils at the conference. "The preliminary results of

those multi-disciplinary studies suggest that a large river

system existed in Baynuna around six million years ago.

Near to and in the river lived at least 28 species of

mammals, six species of reptiles and two species of birds as

Iraq urges Kurds to end western protection

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq urged the Kurdish opposition in northern Iraq on Friday to rid themselves of U.S. and

British protection because the West was only lonking after

its own interests. "The Kurdish groups must see reason and

said the daily Al Thawra, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath

Party. "They are not protection anyone, just serving their own interests in the region," it said. "The inter-Kurdish

conflict is the fruit of the colonial presence in northern Iraq," the paper added. Only Washington and London

"stand to gain from the explosive situation." The Kurds

have controlled north Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the

end of the January-February 1991 Gulf war, with the help of a U.S.-led air force based in Turkey that has imposed a

"no-fly zone" for Iraqi planes over the region. But rival

Kurds have clashed since last May.

get rid of the protection of the United States or Britain.

well as fish and invertebrates," the statement said.

common struggle against French colonial rnle.

criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1962.

former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon four per cent

itself to signing the nuclear pact at that time, rather than

considering a signature.

Mr. Dromi said that eveo though many disagreements remained, the crisis has been defused. "I think what happened yesterday is we agreed to disagree but that tensions were eased," Mr. Dromi

Io another sign of a rapprochement, Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Bassiouny returned to Tel Aviv on Friday, 10 days after he had been recalled to Cairo for consultations, Israel

Also Friday, the head of the U.N. team that inspected Iraq's arms arsenal after the 1991 Gulf war was quoted as saving that Israel's reported nuclear arsenal served as a deterrent.

"It had powerful influence, especially in light of the uncertainty among the Arabs whether Israel has nuclear ahihty and if so, what it is,' the nuclear expert, David Kay, said in an interview with

the Maariv daily.
"If I was the prime minister of Israel, I would never sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," he

Meanwhile 71 per ceot of Israelis support the government's refusal to sign the NPT, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The Yediot Aharooot newspaper found only 23 per cent in favour of joining the treaty while six per cent

voiced oo opinion. The Dahaf Institute questioned 501 people for the survey which has an error margin of four per cent.

security jail. The first official statement on the death toll said 81 of the dead were Muslim fun-

> It said four prison warders were killed by the mutincers. Twelve people were injured, two of them prisoo warders, said the statement

"This is the right toll and any other toll does not cooform to reality and to the inquiry's results," it added, referring to an investigation ordered by the Justice Minis-

An exiled fundamentalist

MOGADISHU (Agencies)

Buildozers crushed U.N.

vehicles at Mogadisho airport Friday as U.N. troops pur-

sued their hasty withdrawal

from Somalia under the pro-

tection of a six-nation task

With no time to take all

equipment out, the bulldoz-

ers rolled over four-wheel-

drive vehicles to prevent

them from falling into the

hands of Somali militiamen

and being converted into "technicals," with a heavy

U.N. spokesman George

Bennett said engines and

other equipment were being

removed first for shipmeot

abroad, but expatriate driv-

destroyed were complete.

ers said the vehicles being

The withdrawal, which fol-

lows the failure of warlords to

agree on a government of.

national unity for This law-

less Horn of Africa country,

machine-gun mounted.

force.

It said that Abdul Kader U.N. beats hasty retreat from

Hachani, FIS leader when the movement was banned,

investigation. Aowar Haddam, who heads the Washington-based Officials said that Lemparliamentary delegation of the Islamic Salvation Front, barek Boumaarafi, an army officer charged in the 1992 said 200 inmates were killed assassioatioo of President after guards apparently Mobammad Bondiaf, was evacuated prisoners then car-ried out "systematic shootamong those killed.

Confusion surrounded the prisoo killings. Accounts con-The statement based its flicted even within the ranks account on what it said were of Islamic militants. reports hy homao rights

The Islamic Salvation activists of past prison upris-Army said in its bulletin made available in Paris, that the revolt was "conducted by our mojahedeen brothers," It put the death toll at "more than 90 prisoners" and made no mention of a systematic

> The prison, on a hill above Algiers' casbah, near the De-fence Ministry, reportedly holds bundreds of militants arrested since the start of a crackdown on fundamental

> ists three years ago.
> Antborities are using strong-arm tactics to try to pnt down an Islamie insurgency mounted after the army cancelled January 1992 legislative elections to thwart a likely fundamentalist vic-

> Although the revolt failed, it is seen in Algiers as an additional sign that fundamentalists fighting the military-backed government are determined to maintain

> their pressure. "They want to show that they are stronger whether in jail or outside. The message is that they are also determined to harass the government," an Algiers-based diplomat said

Iraq is hoping to end oil ban

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is telling its people the oil embargo will fizzle out this year despite U.S. moves to head off action at the U.N. for an easing or lifting of the

ban.
U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright was starting a tour of several U.N. Security Council members on Friday to counter attempts by Russia and France for a let up in the stringent regime of Iraq's sanctions (see page 2).
State-run Iraqi newspapers

said the move was proof of U.S. isolation at the council and pointed to the success of Baghdad's efforts in turning most of its members on the Iraqi side.
"America is cornered at

the Security Council. It is concerned of the pressure that is building up for a lifting of sanctions," the official Al Iraq said in reporting Ms.

Albright's tour. President Saddam Hussein, in a cabinet meeting on Thursday, told his people that "God willing the (Iraqi) ship will safely sail to the other side of the river," in reference to a quick end to the oil embargo slapped on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, sparking the Gulf war which drove Iraqi troops

The official line in Baghdad is that no matter how hard Ms. Albright tries, the world, particularly Europe, will not forsake their econo mic interests for "Washington's whimsical interpretatioo of U.N. resolutions."

U.N. inspectors charged with overseeing the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction as required under terms of the Guif war ceasefire have consistently declined to say that Baghdad has totally met their require-

Rolf Ekeus, the chief U.N. arms inspector, left Baghdad Thursday and said he had not been able to resolve differences over Iraq's past biological warfare research. However, "I think we have

made good progress," Mr. Ekens told reporters. But he reiterated his displeasure with Iraq's declara-

tions about its past biological warfare research. "There, we are completely

tect their departure while

another 7,000 troops from

the Umited States, Britain, France, Italy, Pakistan and

Malaysia stand by on board 18 warships offshore and

The battered city on the

gunships cruise the skies.

not happy with the (lack of)

(Continued on page 7)

2-year-old saved from drowning by alert dog

MARSEILLE (AFP) — A two-year-old girl was saved from drowning by her alert puppy which pulled the httle girl from a pool where she had fallen in the southern French town of Meyrargues, the Provencal newspaper reported Friday. The daily said two-eyar-old Coralie had wandered away from her parents as they were cleaning up their garage Monday and fell into a neighbour's pool. Dedi, the boxer, quickly grabbed the child and pulled her to the edge of the poll. her to the edge of the poll, where the panicked parents found Coralie crying and Dedi comforting her by lick-ing her face. "It's a real miracle," said the relieved mother.

Workers dig up bomb in Italy

RAVENNA, Italy (AFP) -Workers repairing a sewer found a World War II-era bomb Thursday, forcing the evacuation of 2,000 people while experts got rid of it. The bomb had been dropped by American warplanes on the town of Solarolo in eastcentral Italy during the war. Bomb disposal experts said it contained 180 kilogrammes (500 pounds) of explosives. It the bomb,

The Cuban exile who would be president

TAMPA, Florida (R) - A Cuban exile now living in Florida will be part of an inauguration ceremony in Tampa Friday that he claims will make him the president of Cuba. According to an article in Thursday's Tampa Tribune, Jose Morell Romero says he is the last surviving Supreme Court jus-tice of Cuba. Mr. Romero and his Tampo-based backers claim the presidency based on Cuba's 1940 constitution. In the constitution, the senior Supreme Court justice is to de named president until a new president can be elected. Mr. Morell told the newspaper his first order of business will be to receive official recognition from the United States as the only legitimate Cuban government. He also plans to establish diplomatic ties to all the Latin American countries, naming ambassa-dors to each. Mr. Morell left Cuba in 1960, after denouncmg the regime of Fidel Castro. The nation's Supreme Court collapsed after his departore. Although Mr. Morell told the newspaper he hoped to represent all Cubans, several Floridak Cubao-Americao organistions said they were unaware of his plans.

Man with no face seeks damages after blast

SENLIS, France (AFP) — A

man whose face and fingers

were blown off in an aerosol explosion appeared in court in this northern French town Wednesday seeking damages for an accident that ruined his life. Denis Benoliel, 32, is also seeking withdrawal from the market of the Neocide aerosol, manufactured by the multinational Reckitt and Coleman, whose propellant is a mixture of inflammable propane and butane. "I want to be the last human catastrophe of this type," said Benotiel, who has no ears, no nose and fingerless stumps for hands. On February 24, 1990, Mr. Benotiel, a real estate agent, tried to destroy an ants' nest in his bedroom using an aerosol. He lit a cigarette and the room blew op. Benoliel spent three months in a come and in 30 operations, plastie surgeons could not rebuild his face. He has holes where his nose and ears should be, no hair and no eyebrows, and his eyesight. was badly damaged. He said he refused an offer of one million dollars from Reckitt and Coleman provided he drop the case. Lukas Beyeler, 60-year-old president of the firm's French subsidiary who has been charged with involuntary wounding, said the aerosol had been on sale for 20 years, that nine billion cans had been sold in the world," and there has been no accident." "I am convinced that something else happened because no expert has been able to cause a similar explosion using an aerosol," said Beyeler.

Zeroual vows to fight violence after prison mutiny crushed thorities and demanded an

ings.
Mr. Haddam called for an

independent investigation of

"this and similar crimes," a

reference to a November up-

rising at a prison in Be-rouaghia prison in which he

claimed that more than 500

Algerian Television on

Wednesday night showed a

cache of weapons reportedly

seized during the revolt, rais-

ing suspicion of complicity.

Officials said inmates

armed with bomemade

knives and other weapons

took seven guards hostage

Tuesday, then began organis-

ing an escape of np to 1,000 jailed Islamie militants and

Four of the guards were

murdered, and more than a

dozen other prison em-

ployees and security forces

members injured during the

rebellion, Justice Minister Mohammad Teguia said on

The Islamie Salvation

Army, armed wing of the FIS, said Thursday that two

FIS officials and a member of

the GIA were among those

regular prisoners.

state radio.

killed.

prisoners were killed.

REMEMBRANCE: A Russian mother whose an Orthodox church in Moscow. The Day of

son was killed while serving in the army takes the Defender of the Fatherland is part in a ceremony along with other mothers at Russia on Feb. 23 (AFP photo)

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has pledged a relentless battle against extremist violence after his forces crushed a prison mutiny that Islamic leaders say killed twice the official death toll of

Speaking on Thursday af-ter one of the bloodiest episodes of Algeria's recent history, Mr. Zeroual denounced what he called "the destructive and criminal terrorists' rage" and vowed "the state's determination ... to fight terrorism relentlessly."

Algeriao authorities said 100 people, 96 of them prisoners, died in the Algiers prison mutiov that was crushed on Wednesday,

Islamic leaders accuse authorities of deliberately massacring twice that number of prisoners in the Sekadji high-

damentalists charged with "terrorist" acts. The other 15 were common criminals.

from the Algerian public prosecutor's department.

leader claimed that the killmgs were a "delib .ate massacre" programs ad by ao-

Morocco. NATO sources said separate meetings were to follow later io the day with Israel, Egypt, Mauritania and Turisia, but stressed the low-key nature of the talks which they

concern. Alliance planners, express-

But the initiative has been protested by Middle East countries not included in the process and led to sharp criticism of Mr. Claes by member states who accuse hun of matter as a drive against

Islamic extremism. Mr. Claes was carpeted by alliance ambassadors after saying he believed Islamie fundamentalism was as much a threat to the Western alliance as communism once

A furious Spanish diplomat said presentation of the move as a "new crusade" against Islam was dangerous and mis-

leading.

has focused oo Eastern group soon getting the capa-

'Religious fundamentalism, whether Islamic or of other varieties, is oot a concern for NATO," he said in a signed article in Britain's

But the damage had already been done.

NATO opens talks with Mideast, Maghreb countries

BRUSSELS (R) - The nisatioo (NATO), stressing it is not planning a new "cru-sade against Islam," cautiously opened a con-troversial dialogue with five Middle East and North African (Maghreb) states on Fri-

day.

Hard-pressed NATO Secretary-Geoeral Willy Claes, his credibility at risk over a bribery scandal gripping Belgian politics, began the initiative by holding talks with representatives from

said would explore the development of areas of mutual

mg a concern over extremism and weapons proliferation, say they want to extend security and stahility on NATO's southern flank. The move has been strongly pushed by southern members

Portugal, Spain and France. clumsily mispresenting the

"The purpose is to spread security, not find new ene-mies," he thundered.

NATO, which for years Europe, started looking over its shoulder after a secret report warned of the dangers of a rogue state or extremist bility to fire a nuclear missile

at its defences. Mr. Claes retracted his statement shortly afterwards, but his authority appeared badly shaken by the affair.

Financial Times.

self-rule authority. Politicians here, however, are uncertain whether they will leave a lasting mark on

March 31, but will now be completed at the end of this the coalition.

mooth - in just a few days. The decision to speed up the retreat came after Somali militiamen looted abandoned componeds abandoned by the United Nations despite pledges by the warlords to respect them.

At the port and airport, with canteens gone, the last U.N. troops and civilians are subsisting on meals, ready to eat meals — updated versions of the C-rations supplied duriog the World War II. Although promised coop-

eration by the country's leading warlords. Lieutenant-General C. Zinni, commander of the seven-nation military coalition, said his force was prepared to meet any threat. His plans, he said were not "based oo faith and trust."

division and discontent with

ple are in a state of perplex-

ity, they are anxious," said

Haidar Abdul Shafi, a former

senior negotiator with Israel

who is forming his own group

with Gaza and West Bank

professionals and academics.

to be named Movement for

Dr. Abdul Shafi quit the

peace process with the secret

Oslo talks that led to the

declaration of principles in

September 1993, eight

months before the start of

autonomy in Gaza and the

He said various initiatives

West Bank.

Building Democracy.

They all indicate that peo-

Gen. Zinni, a commander

the leadership.

with long experience in Somalia, said he did not think the faction leaders would risk a direct confrontation with

Gen. Zinni is commanding 23 warships, 80 aircraft, in-eluding AC-130 gunships, Harrier jump jets and Cobra helicopters, and 14,000 men and women, more than half of them Americans. 'We've taken a lonk at the

threat - at the worst case and we've brought enough force to handle that threat, Gen. Zinni said Wednesday evening aboard this command ship. Four hundred Pakistani

al Islamabad on Friday, bringing the U.N. force down to some 3,800. The last 2,500 men, from Pakistan and Bangladesh, will leave aboard troopships on Tuesday after more than 2,000 U.S. and Italian

other side of the razor-wire was relatively calm Friday with only an occasional warning shot from a militiaman with a rifle — the equivalent. in Mogadishu, of a blast on a horn in Rome, a signal that one car with more gummen aboard than another is de-

The gunmen continued to ignore a peace-pact signed Tuesday between sooth Mogadisho warlord Mohamtroops flew out to their capitmad Aideed and north Moga-dishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohammad to take guns off the streets, confine technicals to designated a cas, and share control of the port and airport after the devarture of the U.N. Troops. marines come ashore to pro-

manding right-of-way.

Opposition groups to Arafat mushroom

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Groups opposed to the peace deal with Israel are mushrooming in the self-rule Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank some with the hlessing of Palestine Liberation Organisatioo (PLO) leader Yasser Arzfat.

Militant groups such as Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, have long called for an end to the autonomy deal. In Damascus a coalition of 10 opposition groups has

been fighting the agreement from the start. But recent months have seen a mushrooming of local movements opposed to the peace deal including some: had been started since the authorised by the Palestinian

"the peace process has no credibility. "How genuine they are remains to be seen, but the common factor behind them the peace process, or whether is a lack of unity in the ranks they are simply a sign of of Palestinians, which is to be

The Palestinian Authority deplored." The new groups, at least two in Gaza and one in the West Bank town of Nablus, democratic means. come at a time when Mr. Arafat himself is distillusioned Bassam Shakaa; former mayor of Nablus, announced

Palestinian factions. In Gaza, the National Movement for Change is opposed to the autonomy agreement, but has a license from Mr. Arafat's self-rule; authority.

with the peace process and

has called for talks with all

"We are aiming for national unity," said Khadar Al Moghrabi, a co-founder of the movement and former member of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Speaking in a basement office protected by an armed guard, Mr. Moghrabi said:
"The Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a fact, but it does not meet our demands and needs to be corrected.

A company of the second of the

believes in the agreement. We seek to destroy it through

on Wednesday he was setting up the Palestinian Coalition to represent forces from all over the occupied territory.

He released a statement calling on Mr. Arafat to resign, and described his new movement as "a popular coalition that includes national and religions forces opposed to the Osio agree-

"There is opposition, more and more frustration and anger, mixed with hope. Each person tries to express it his own way."

Meanwhile m Damascus bardline opposition groups have refused to take up the PLO's call for talks unless the autonomy accord with Israel is scrapped.